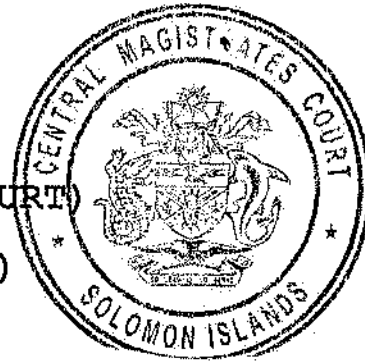


IN THE CENTRAL MAGISTRATES COURT  
OF SOLOMON ISLANDS AT HONIARA)  
(Criminal Jurisdiction)



Criminal Case No: 51/2020

REGINA

-v-

JOHN RICHARD SEKETALA

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**COURTS SHORT FORM PRELIMINARY INQUIRY RULING**

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Prosecutor: Mr. Auga from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Defence counsel: Mr. Pulekera for the Public Solicitors Office

Plea date: 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020

SFPI filing date: 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020 (Photocopy PI depositions)

SFPI Ruling: 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020

**CHARGE:**

The Defendant in this matter namely Mr. John Richard SEKETALA has been charged with 1 count of Attempt Murder contrary to section 215 (a) of the Penal Code.

**ARRAIGNMENT:**

He was arraigned on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 whereby he pleaded not guilty to the charge. Nothing further was submitted by him and his counsel except for his plea. They opted for SFPI to commit the matter.

**SHORT FORM PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY:**

The committal proceedings are found under sections 211 to 215 in the Criminal Procedure Code.

In light of that, I have assessed the SFPI documents filed for this court and already served on Defence. The SFPI contain the following:

1. The charge sheet
2. List of witnesses:
  - a. Lai Tzu HONG statement dated 05/02/2020
  - b. Above witness additional statement dated 21/02/2020
  - c. John Steward BAGE statement dated 11/02/2020
  - d. Nadine TOVOSIA'S statement dated 09/02/2020
  - e. Jeffery BANA statement dated 06/02/2020
  - f. Philip LIUGA dated 06/02/2020
  - g. Above witnesses additional statement dated 21/02/2020
  - h. David UMA statement dated 06/02/2020
  - i. Tahu PUA statement dated 09/02/2020
  - j. Paul KWAOMAE statement dated 10/02/2020
  - k. Gravis AFUGA statement dated 10/02/2020
3. List of Exhibits
  - a. Record of Interview dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020
  - b. Medical report of Mr. Laitzu HONG dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020
  - c. Copy of the fixed term estate parcel number 192-018-110.
  - d. Photographs for the matter

In assessing the SFPI documents filed containing all of the above SFPI depositions, I have found prima facie case against the defendant to be tried in the High Court for the charge laid against him.

This is therefore committed to the High Court by way of a SFPI and will be listed for mention at the High Court on the last Friday of this month which is 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as the Practice Directions have set out for such matter.

Parties are asked to check with the High Court Registry for the listing in the HC so the defendant can be made available for the HC for further dealings.

Court orders:

1. Find a prima facie case made out against the Defendant in this case for the 1 count of attempt murder he faces in court.
2. The matter is committed to the High Court by way of a SFPI so it can be heard in that court having the jurisdiction to hear this case.
3. The next court date for him would be on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020 at the High Court. Parties are reminded to check the High Court Registry for this matter for listing by the Registrar.

4. Clerk to ensure this is committed to the High Court as soon as practicable so parties can attend to it for listing and other relevant matters for this case.
5. Bail is extended for the Defendant.

Benetehi

Ms. Tearo Beneteti

Principal Magistrate Beneteti

