

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA  
(MTWARA DISTRICT REGISTRY)

AT MTWARA

MISC. CRIMINAL APPLICATION 12 OF 2022

(Originating from Criminal Case No. 91 OF 2019 OF District Court Lindi  
at Lindi)

BAKARI ISSA MSANGA.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

THE REPUBLIC .....RESPONDENT

RULING

**Muruke, J.**

Bakari Issa Msanga, being dissatisfied with conviction and sentence of Lindi District Court in criminal case number 91 of 2019, filed present application for extension of time to file present application for extension of time within which to file appeal. In totality applicant delay was caused by was caused by administrative procedure of prison to shift him from Lindi Prison to Kingulungundwa and later on to Lilungu Prison, procedure that he had no control. Learned State Attorney Ajuaye Bilishanga did no object to the prayer for extension of time, reason being right to heard. To this court, what applicant is seeking before this court is right to be heard, one of the fundamental principles of natural justice.

It is settled principle of law of the land that, in application for extension of time the applicant must show that there is sufficient reason/good cause for the delay. This was held in the case of **The International Airline of**

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**the United Arab Emirates V. Nassor Nassor, Civil Application No. 569/01 of 2019 CAT (unreported) that;**

*"It is trite law that in an application for extension of time to do a certain act, the applicant must show good cause for failing to do what was supposed to be done within the prescribed time."*

However, despite that constitutional right, yet to extend time is purely vested to the discretion of the court, which discretion always is exercised judiciously, upon sufficient cause. Indeed, what amount to good cause/sufficient cause is not define but it is the duty of the court to treat each case depending on its circumstances as stated in various cases including in the case of **Emmanuel Bilinge Vs. Praxeda Ogwever & Another, Misc. Application No. 168 of 2012 (unreported)** stated that;

*"What constitutes reasonable or sufficient cause has not been defined under the section because that being a matter for the court's discretion cannot be laid down by any hard and fast rules but to be determined by reference to all the circumstances of each case."*

Similar principle was stated in the case of **Regional Manager Tanroads Kagera Vs. Ruaha Concrete Co Ltd, Civil Application No. 96 of 2007**, where the court observed the following:

*"What constitutes sufficient reasons cannot be laid down by any hard or fast rules. This must be determined by reference to all the circumstances of each particular case. This means **the applicant must place before the court material which will move the court to exercise judicial discretion in order to extend time limited by rules**" (emphasis supplied).*

The same was repeated in **Tanga Cement and Another, Civil Application No. 6 of 2021**, clearly held that:

  
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*"What amounts to sufficient cause has not been defined. From decided cases a number of factors has to be taken into account including whether or not the application has been brought promptly, the absence of any or valid explanation for delay; lack of diligence on the part of the applicant."*

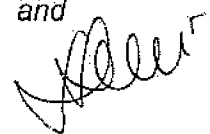
In the case of **Zaida Baraka & 2 Others Vs. Exim Bank (T) Limited, Misc. Commercial Cause No. 300 of 2015** (unreported), when quoted the principle developed in the case of **Lyamuya Construction Company Ltd Vs. Board of Registered Trustee of Young Women's Christian Association of Tanzania, Civil Application No. 2 of 2010** (unreported) the Court stated that;

*"As a matter of general principle, it is the discretion of the court to grant extension of time. But that, discretion is judicial and so it must be exercised according to the rules of reason and justice and not according to private opinion or arbitrarily."*

Applicant has explained in his affidavit that, he received copy of judgment and proceedings in prison through prison authorities. He was shifted from Lindi Prison to Kingulungundwa and final to Lilungu Prison. Since he was in prison, he had a limited legal assistance and he had no control of the situations. Thus failure to file his appeal on time was beyond his control, which is good ground for extension of time in the circumstances of this case.

Court of Appeal in the case of **Mobrama Gold Corporation Ltd Vs. Minister for Energy and Mineral, and East African Goldmines Ltd as Intervor [1998] TLR 245**, observed that;

*"It is generally inappropriate to deny a party an extension of time where such denial will stifle his case; as the respondents' delay does not constitute a case of procedural abuse or contemptuous default and*



*because the respondent will not suffer any prejudice, if extension sought is granted."*

What applicant is requesting before this court, is extension of time to file appeal for him to be heard. The right to be heard is safeguarded in the constitution. Article 13(6) (a) of the constitution provides in the Kiswahili version thus;

***"(6) Kwa madhumini ya kuhakikisha usawa mbele ya sheria, mamlaka ya nchi itaweka taratibu zinazofaa au zinazo zingatia misingi kwamba;"***

***"(a) Wakati wa haki na wajibu wa mtu yeyote vinahitajika kufanyiwa uamuzi wa mahakama au chombo kingine kinacho husika, basi mtu huyo atakuwa na haki ya kukata rufaa au kupata nafuu nyingine ya sheria kutokana na maamuzi ya mahakama au chombo hicho kinginecho kinachohusika."***

In totality, applicant has advanced good grounds for extension sought, thus extension of time is granted. Intended *appeal* to be filed within 45 days from today.

  
Z. G. Muruke

Judge

11/03/2022

Ruling delivered in the presence of Ajuaye Bilishanga principal State Attorney for the respondent, and applicant in person.

  
Z. G. Muruke

Judge

11/03/2022

