



**COURT OF MAGISTRATES (MALTA)
AS A COURT OF CRIMINAL JUDICATURE
MAGISTRATE DR. GABRIELLA VELLA B.A., LL.D.**

Case Number 328/2024

**The Police
(Inspector Francesco Mizzi)**

Vs

Manpreet Singh

Today, 22nd January 2024

The Court,

After having considered the charges brought against **Manpreet Singh**, twenty seven (27) years of age, son of Jagdish and Kamaldeen neè Kaur, born in India on the 26th February 1996 and holder of Maltese Residence Permit No. 253238A, of having on the 18th January 2024, at around eight thirty in the morning (08:30hrs) and eight forty five in the morning (08:45hrs) in The Village Cafè, in Censu Tanti Street, St. Paul's Bay, and/or in other parts of the Maltese Islands:

1. Committed simple theft to the detriment of The Village Cafè and/or other persons, in violation of Sections 284 and 285 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta;

And of having on the 18th January 2024, in previous days, weeks, months and/or years, in the Maltese Islands:

2. Led an idle and vagrant life in violation of Section 338(w) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta;

After having considered the request put forth by the Prosecution for the Court to apply the provisions of Section 15A of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta, should the same find application in this case;

After having heard the accused plead guilty to the charges brought against and this after being asked by the Court what he wishes to reply to the charges so brought against him;

After having heard submissions regarding punishment;

After having considered all the records of the proceedings;

Considers:

The accused is being charged of having on the 18th January 2024, at around eight thirty in the morning (08:30hrs) and eight forty five in the morning (08:45hrs) in The Village Cafè, in Censu Tanti Street, St. Paul's Bay, and/or in other parts of the Maltese Islands: (1) Committed simple theft to the detriment of The Village Cafè and/or other persons, in violation of Sections 284 and 285 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta; And that on the 18th January 2024, in previous days, weeks, months and/or years, in the Maltese Islands: (2) Led an idle and vagrant life in violation of Section 338(w) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charges brought against him and in view of such guilty plea the Court must necessarily find him guilty of the charges so brought against him.

For the purposes of punishment the Court took into account that the nature of the charges brought against the accused but also took into account the fact that the accused has a clean conviction sheet, that he submitted a guilty plea at an early stage of the proceedings and that he has a drug addiction problem and social issues which need to be addressed.

Therefore after considering Sections 17(d), 284, 285 and 338(w) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta, the Court is finding the accused, upon his own admission, guilty of the charges brought against him and condemns him to three (3) months imprisonment.

In view of the fact that the accused has a drug addiction problem and social issues which need to be addressed and treated, the Court, in terms of Section 412D of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta, is placing the accused under a Treatment Order for a period of two (2) years from date of this judgment, which term can be revoked or extended for further terms as the case may be, and this for him to be given the necessary help and treatment to overcome his drug addiction problem and social issues. The Treatment Order under which the accused is being placed is subject to the conditions set out in the relative Decree issued today, which Decree also forms an integral part of this judgment.

The Court explained to the accused in ordinary language the effects of the Treatment Order under which he is being placed and that if at any time during the period that the Treatment Order is in force he fails to comply with any of the requirements or conditions of the said Treatment Order, he may be subjected to the imposition of a fine (*ammenda*) not exceeding one thousand one hundred and sixty four Euro and sixty nine cents (€1,164.69).

In view of the fact that the amount stolen by the accused has not been sufficiently established, the Court at this stage abstains from considering the request put forth by the Prosecution in terms of Section 15A of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

MAGISTRATE

DEPUTY REGISTRAR