

*COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS*

*CRI/VBI NO.89/03/2017*

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Criminal Division

BETWEEN

**REX**

AND

**ROMEO MAJOR aka MICE**

BEFORE: Mr. Justice Andrew Forbes

APPEARANCES: Mrs. Ashley Carroll & Mr. Sean Novell Smith on behalf  
of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr. K. Brian Hanna on behalf of Mr. Major

HEARING DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 & 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

SENTENCING DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## **SENTENCING**

### **BACKGROUND**

[1.] On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the convict appeared before the Criminal Court and was convicted by a jury nine to zero on one (1) count of Rape and one (1) count Grievous Harm. That Counsel for the Convict, Mr. K. Brian Hanna indicated he should be provided with a probation report to aid in sentencing. A probation report dated the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was, in fact, prepared by Chief Probation Officer Ms. Wynelle Goodridge along with Trainee Probation Officer Mr. Laish Boyd Jr. The report sourced information from the Convict's father - Mr. Joseph Major, his sister - Ms. Latoya Rolle, his neighbor - Ms. Corolette Rolle, his former employer - Mr. Joel Major, the mother of the virtual complainant - Ms. Rosemary McClure and Senior Probation Officer of the Department of Rehabilitative and Welfare Services - Ms. Matrena Carey. The report also sought to rely upon the Antecedent Report from the Criminal Records Office. Counsel for the DPP made recommendations as to an appropriate sentence and Counsel for Mr. K Brian Hanna made pleas in mitigation.

### **FACTS**

#### **Trial**

[2.] The brief facts summarized from the trial are that, around 7:45pm on the evening of November 2016 in the vicinity of Uncle P's bar in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the virtual complainant Ms. Roxanne Franks reported that shortly after leaving the establishment the convict who she had met on the inside of the establishment had offered to walk her to the bus stop. However, upon getting to the outside the establishment the convict struck her to the face and head multiple times with a mostly filled glass bottle. He then dragged her to the rear of the building where he raped her. That she was able to escape and was eventually taken to the Rand Memorial Hospital via ambulance. She was treated for her injuries as it related to the sexual assault and to her face which were characterized by the Doctor as serious. Her facial injuries included a fracture of the left mandible, left orbital blunt trauma to left eye along with cerebral concussion.

[3.] That according to the evidence a Sexual Assault Kit was used, samples taken and submitted to the Forensic Laboratory as well as DNA samples of blood, drawn from both Ms. Franks and the Convict were submitted to a Laboratory in the United States of America for DNA analysis. The contents of those reports were presented in Court and it was demonstrated that seminal fluid was

present on swabs taken from Ms. Franks. The results appeared to show that there were similarities to the DNA of the convict present in swaps taken from Ms. Franks.

[4.] That during the investigation the Officers spoke to several individuals and received information. They conducted further inquiries and later arrested the Convict. That when questioned under caution the Convict indicated that he was not at the establishment at the time of the attack but had in fact pass through the area on his way to get food. It should be noted that the Convict elected not to execute the questions and answers on the Official Police Record of Interview as was his right. However, the officer under examination was able to recall the majority of the answers provided by the Convict.

[5.] At the conclusion of the case for the Prosecution, Counsel for the Convict made a no case submission which was rejected by the Court. The Convict was subsequently given his election in which he elected to remain silent and not call any witnesses. The jury was then given their directions and thereafter they returned a guilty verdict on each count unanimously.

### **Probation Report**

[6.] According to the information supplied in the Probation Report, the Convict was second of six siblings and was born in New Providence. That he relocated to Grand Bahama and was enrolled at Walter Parker Primary and, subsequently, Hawksbill High School. While at Hawksbill High School, he was then expelled in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade after being involved in a fight. According to the Probation Report, the Convict advised that he achieved two (2) Bahamas Junior Certificates (BJCs). According to the Convict he was first employed with FES construction as a Carpenter's Helper. That he then gained employment at Baker's Construction as a semi-skilled carpenter. He worked at another construction company before working for his friend as a salesman. The Convict is unmarried. However, indicates he has one (1) child with a former partner. That the Convict indicated he supports the child emotionally and financially.

[7.] The Convict's father, Mr. Joseph Major, described his son as mannerly in his youth and maintains that current disposition. He noted that his son lived with his mother in New Providence until he was six (6) or seven (7) years old when the Convict and a sister then relocated to Grand Bahama. Mr. Major noted his son started displaying behavioral issues during his teenage years. He first attempted to discipline the Convict and subsequently banned him from his residence. He noted that, though the Convict did not reside with him, he and the Convict maintained a good

relationship and he feels that the Convict's association with friends led him to make negative decisions. He noted that his son had a temper and could become belligerent, at times, especially when inebriated. Mr. Major observed that, upon returning to his residence, the Convict was more helpful around the house and attended church more regularly. He acknowledged the serious nature of the offenses and indicated that the Court's decision must be respected. It was noted that Mr. Major would have advised his son to plead guilty but that his son never mentioned anything about the situation.

[8.] The Court notes that in the Probation report the Convict's mother died when he was eleven (11) years old. Losing a parent at such a young age could be a traumatic event for the Convict. Mrs. Catherine Major is the step mother of the Convict and recalls the Convict residing with her since he was six (6) or seven (7). She recalls the Convict getting into fights at school and that his behavior deteriorated as he got older. She notes that he made a miraculous change in his life in recent years. She expresses upset to learn of his involvement in this matter and hopes he can be shown mercy.

[9.] Mr. Julian McKenzie is the former employer of the Convict indicated he has known the Convict since High School. That the Convict is honest regarding his criminal past and that he while in prison had dedicated himself to being a Christian. He notes that the Convict drank heavily and had fallen on difficult times and had only recovered from a brain injury and was living in his car. That he befriended the Convict who assisted Mr. McKenzie with work at his stall in Port Lucaya Marketplace. That he also assisted the Convict in praying and seeking God. That he has encouraged the Convict to face the matter and deal with the consequences.

[10.] The Court also heard from Mrs. Corollette Rolle a retired teacher who formerly worked at Program S.U.R.E (Success Ultimately Reassures Everybody) and the Simpson Penn Center for Boys, she notes she resides in the same neighborhood as the Convict and had known him since he was a young adult. That they became close during the last two (2) years when she assisted him with food during the period he was living in his car. She noted she commenced taking him to church, that he was mannerly and that he never stole anything from her. She recounts that the Convict would give her small tokens to commemorate her birthday and recalls him indicating how he rejected overtures from tourist to acquire drugs for him.

[11.] The Probation Report reflected the account of Ms. Rosemary McClure, the mother of the Virtual Complainant. Ms. McClure reported that Ms. Franks received significant injuries which impaired her vision and her mobility was compromised. It is noted that it is unclear from the records whether the mobility was a consequence of the injuries sustained during the assault. The Court would note the medical report tendered and anecdotal observations of Ms. Franks' struggle to walk into the Court and inability to see very well. These are anecdotal observations without any medical documentation in support. Ms. McClure recounts the horrific experience of seeing her daughter in an unrecognizable state after the attack. Further, she seeks that the Convict be punished to the full extent of the law.

[12.] That the Convict is single and with one (1) female child age unknown by the Court. That the Convict acknowledged that he was partying and drinking a lot at Uncle's Ps Liquor Store and Bar. He reports seeing the virtual complainant at the establishment also drinking but he didn't know her. It is at this point according to the Probation Officer notes that the Convict didn't go into any further details. However, he admitted that the offences occurred. That the Convict blames his actions on the alcohol and regrets his action towards the virtual complainant and wishes to apologize to her. The Convict admits to having good relationships with his father and stepmother and siblings. That he is a member of the Baptist denomination and attends Zion Baptist Community Church weekly. He reports that he started smoking marijuana and consuming alcohol every other day from the age of twenty (20). Mr. Major reports being struck in the head with an unknown object resulting delayed speech and memory loss also inability to lift heavy objects and difficulty walking steadily.

[13.] The recommendation from the Probation Officer notes that the Convict was spoken of highly of having made positive strides in recent years by many of his friends and family. That there was no history of such attacks as he was convicted of in this case. The Convict's involvement in this matter represent a dangerous situation for the affected victim and the public at large. That it was clear that alcohol played a major role in the traumatic events that took place, noting that the Convict has to account for his actions and hope he can continue in a positive direction.

## LAW

[14.] The Sexual Offences Act defines Rape as follows:

*“3. Rape is the act of any person not under fourteen years of age having sexual intercourse with another person who is not his spouse — (a) without the consent of that other person; (b) without consent which has been extorted by threats or fear of bodily harm; (c) with consent obtained by personating the spouse of that other person; or (d) with consent obtained by false and fraudulent representations as to the nature and quality of the act.....6. Any person who — (a) commits rape; (b) attempts to commit rape; or (c) assaults any person with intent to commit rape, is guilty of an offence and liable to a term of imprisonment within the range of fifteen years to imprisonment for life.....”*

The Convict was also charged with Grievous Harm which is defined by the Penal Code as follows:

*“270. Whoever intentionally and unlawfully causes grievous harm to any person shall be liable to imprisonment for seven years.”*

Further, Unlawful Harm also defined as follows:

*“23. (1) In this Code — “harm” means any bodily hurt, disease or disorder, whether permanent or temporary; “grievous harm” means any harm which amounts to a maim or dangerous harm as hereinafter defined, or which seriously or permanently injures health, or which is likely so to injure health, or which extends to permanent disfigurement or to any external or internal organ, member or sense; “dangerous harm” means harm endangering life. (2) Where death, caused by harm, takes place within a year and a day of the harm being caused, the special provisions, relating to homicide, under Title xx. of this Code may become applicable. 24. Harm is unlawful which is intentionally or negligently caused without any of the justifications mentioned in Title vii. of this Code.”*

[15.] In deciding the appropriate sentence consideration must be given to the general principles of sentencing. Halsbury's Laws Third ed. Vol 11(2) at paragraphs 1188 notes:

*“The aims of sentencing are now considered to be retribution, deterrence and protection and modern sentencing policy reflects a combination of several of all of these aims. The retributive elements is intended to show a public revulsion of the offence and to punish the offender for his wrong conduct. Deterrent sentences are aimed at deterring not only the actual offender from further offences but also potential offenders from breaking the law. The importance of reformation of the offender is shown by growing emphasis laid upon it by much of modern legislation. However,*

*the protection of society is often overriding consideration. In addition reparation is becoming an important objective in sentencing.”*

Each case must depend on its own circumstances and various factors must be considered by the court in deciding which of the principles should predominate.

[16.] In the Court of Appeal case of **Prince Hepburn v. Regina** SCCrApp. No. 79 of 2013, Adderley JA (Retired) offered the following guidelines as to sentencing where he said at paragraph 36:-

*“In exercising his sentencing function judicially the sentencing Judge must individualize the crime to the particular victim so that he can, in accordance with his legal mandate identify and take steps into consideration the aggravating as well mitigating factors applicable to the particular perpetrator in the particular case. This includes but not limited to considering the nature of the crime and the manner and circumstances in which it was carried out, the age of the convict, whether he has past convictions of a similar nature and his conduct before and after the crime was committed. He must ensure that having regard to the objects of sentencing, retribution, deterrence, prevention and rehabilitation that the tariff is reasonable and the sentence is fair and proportionate to the crime.”*

## **SUBMISSIONS**

[17.] Mr. Hanna on behalf of the Convict suggest that he is a relatively young man and still redeemable. Though he made no written submissions to the Court. He noted that the Convict is making strides in changing his life by not consuming alcohol and pursuing the Christian faith by being an active member in his church. Finally, he suggested to the Court a sentence of 10 years.

[18.] Mrs. Cooper-Rolle on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions notes that the Convict was previously convicted for several offences spanning from 2004 to 2019. The offences are as follows:

- i. Offence being Possession of Dangerous Drugs in December 2004 where the Convict received a conditional discharge in default a fine or imprisonment for three (3) months;
- ii. In October 2007 the Offences of Threats of Death and Causing Damage where he was convicted and fined Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) or one (1) month at prison;

- iii. In December 2014 convicted of Causing Harm and fined One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars or six (6) months in prison;
- iv. In December 2015 convicted for Causing Damage given a conditional discharge for six (6) months plus pay two (\$200.00) dollars in compensation, attend counseling at the Department of Social Services in default four (4) months at prison;
- v. In April 2018 the Convict was convicted in two separate courts one for Causing Damage where he was ordered to compensate the Virtual Complainant Five Hundred (\$500.00) dollars or three (3) months in prison. In the second court he was convicted of Violating conditions of his bail and was sentenced by then magistrate Mrs. Ayse Rengin Johnson to two (2) years in prison; and
- vi. November 2019 the Convict was convicted for Possession of Dangerous Drugs with intent to supply and sentenced again by Magistrate Johnson to a conditional discharge for one(1) year where the Convict was required to attend the Department of Rehabilitation, attend BFM every Saturday, be of good behavior and attend court monthly for review. In breach one (1) month in prison. Notes was that on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the defendant was said to have completed all requirements for his conditions and was granted an absolute discharge.

[19.] The Court would note in the context the possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply case this is a highly unusual sentence by the Magistrate, nonetheless it was not appealed and the defendant was given an absolute discharge and it's astounding it still appears on his antecedents when it ought to have been expunged. That is a matter for the Commissioner of Police to address. Mr. Smith orally suggested a 15-20 year sentence for the offence of Rape and a 5-8 year sentence for the offence of Grievous Harm.

## **ANYALSIS & DISCUSSION**

[20.] In individualizing this case to the present Convict, Mr. Romeo Major, did not appear to have cooperated with the investigation. He did participate in the Record of Interview where he gave less than truthful responses, however as his constitutional rights dictate he can remain silent and not provide any answers. He also elected to proceed to a full trial which again is his



constitutional right. After which a jury was satisfied that the crown had proven the elements of both offences beyond a reasonable doubt.

[21.] The Convict does appear to express remorse although there appear to be a reluctances when pressed to provide full details and it is a question of whether the apparent head injury as advanced by the Convict and his family is the cause for this reluctance or the remaining ambivalence to confront the brutality of the crime itself. The Court takes note of the learned authors of Halsbury where they note that the protection of society is an overriding consideration. In this case the question is what would be the appropriate sentence in the case of Rape and Grievous Harm. The starting point in each instance is the respective statutory regime in the case of Rape the Offences carried a sentence range of fifteen (15) years to life imprisonment. ( there has been discussion regarding the implementation of life imprisonment and those considerations) In the Court of Appeal case of Ervin Livingston Brown v. Regina SCCrApp. No.37 of 2017, in which Madam Justice Appeal Crane Scott said as follows:

*“It goes without saying that by virtue of its indeterminate nature, a sentence of imprisonment for life effectively condemns a defendant on whom it is imposed to imprisonment for the rest of his natural life. Although Parliament has, undoubtedly, provided that a person who has been convicted of certain very grave offences is liable to the imposition of the sentence of life imprisonment, such a maximum sentence is discretionary in nature and ought never to be lightly imposed. 30. Common law courts have over many years developed clear guidelines as to how, and in what circumstances the discretion to impose the indeterminate sentence of life imprisonment ought to be exercised. See the discussion between paragraphs [19] through [27] of Francois delivered on 8 December 2020 applying the common law principles laid down in R v. Hodgson (1968) 52 Cr. App. R. 113; Attorney-General’s Reference No. 32 of 1996 (R v. Whittaker) [1997] 1 Cr. App. Rep. (S) 261 and R v. Chapman [2000] 1 Cr. App. R. (S) 377.....”*

There was also the Court of Appeal case of Jerome Daniels Francois v. Regina SCCrApp. No.165 of 2010 and again Justice of Appeal Crane Scott noting and drawing from the headnote said:

*“The authorities clearly establish that a life sentence is inappropriate where the index offence is not grave enough to require a very long sentence. However, where a judge is satisfied that the offence is so grave that a very long sentence is warranted, the judge must then proceed to consider any evidence of the appellant's likelihood of further offending and the gravity of such further offending in order to discover whether there are good grounds for believing that the defendant may remain a serious danger to the public for a period which cannot be reliably estimated at the date of sentence. In the absence of evidence as to the appellant's likelihood of further offending, the judge's decision to impose the life sentence was clearly wrong.*

*The fact that both counsel had agreed with the judge's view that the imposition of a life sentence would be “merciful” to the appellant in that it would ensure that he would receive treatment did not make the appellant's sentence any less erroneous as such a goal could equally have been achieved by the imposition of a custodial sentence of a definite term of years during which the appellant could have been ordered to receive the necessary treatment.*

*In addition to applying the Hodgson principles and the established sentencing principles of punishment, deterrence, and rehabilitation, it is also the responsibility of a sentencing court when imposing a sentence of life imprisonment (as distinct from a determinate sentence) to recommend the tariff or minimum period of sentence to be served by the defendant for purposes of deterrence and punishment before his or her release in accordance with the Correctional Services Act.....”*

[22.] In the case of **Wilson Balvin Taborda v. Regina** SCCrApp, No. 171 of 2017 from the Court Appeal, the discussion centered on the appropriate sentences where a person plead guilty for Rape and there was a plea agreement in place. The Court acknowledges that is not the scenario in this case however it is illustrative of the discussion as to the varied ranges.

*“The range of 7 to 10 years was completely consistent with sentences of this court on charges for rape when the accused pleaded guilty and was a first offender. 21. For example, in R v Comarcho [2011] 2 BHS J No. 48 an accused pled guilty to the rape of a woman after entering her home. He was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment, the judge*

having taken into account the fact that he has served 2 years on remand. This made it a total of 6 years that he was incarcerated. 22. In *R v Cooper* [2008] 2 BHS J No. 21, the accused pled guilty to the rape of an 82 year old woman at the victim's home in early hours of the morning. He was a heavy cocaine user. He was sent to prison for 7 years. 23. *Attorney General v Campbell* [2005] 4 BHS J. No 93 the accused, a mature male, was convicted after trial of unlawful sexual intercourse with an eleven year old girl. He was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment. 24. In *R v Deon Ellis* (2010) unreported the accused raped a 75 year old woman in her apartment. He was convicted after a full trial and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment. 25. More recently, in *Bethel v R* [2017] 1 BHS J 106 the Court of Appeal affirmed a sentence of 12 years when an appellant was sentenced after a conviction, after a full trial, of the rape of a dependent child who was 13 years old. 26. During this appeal, counsel for the Crown candidly told the court in a recent case an accused was sentenced to 8 years for rape after a guilty plea, although it was her submission that the 8 year sentence was unduly lenient. 27. Having regard to those decisions, the trial judge could not reasonably have found that the joint submission of seven to ten years was "would bring the administration of justice into disrepute or is otherwise contrary to the public interest". The range was consistent with other decisions of the court where an accused pled guilty to rape, even the rape of an elderly person. We accept that in those cases decided before 2009, the sentences imposed were against the background that the courts considered that the maximum penalty that could be imposed on a first offender was seven years and that Parliament, in December 2008, removed that bar. We also accept that rape is a heinous offences that must result in incarceration and that there is a case for stiffer penalties than have been previously imposed as counsel for the Crown so passionately argued. 28. However, at the trial, counsel for the Crown agreed that a ten year maximum was appropriate and that was, in our view, consistent with the authorities of this court....."

[23.] Again the Court of Appeal case of **Henry Sean Darren Gay v. The Director of Public Prosecutions** SCCrApp. No.55 of 2020, President of the Court of Appeal Barnett noted at paragraph 62, commenting on the Judge at first instance indicating the intention of imposing a thirty (30) year sentence but discounted it on the plea in mitigation. And here the Appellant was contending the sentence was unduly harsh, Sir Barnett said the following:

*“It is settled law that an appellate court will not interfere with or set aside a sentence as being unduly severe unless the sentence was beyond that which a reasonable judge could impose. A twenty year sentence does not fall outside the range of reasonableness. Indeed, in Johnson v R [2017] 1 BHS J No. 98 15 this Court (differently constituted) affirmed a sentence of 20 years for a conviction of unlawful sexual intercourse with an eight year old boy. 64. In Thurston v R [2005] 1 BHS J No. 9 this Court (differently constituted) affirmed a sentence of 15 years for the rape of a 15 year old female. That sentence was imposed in 2003 before the Sexual Offences Act was amended and the sentences for sexual offences increased by Parliament. As was said in Taborda v R [2017] SCCrApp. No. 171 of 2017: “27. ...We accept that in those cases decided before 2009, the sentences imposed were against the background that the courts considered that the maximum penalty that could be imposed on a first offender was seven years and 51 that Parliament, in December 2008, removed that bar. We also accept that rape is a heinous offences (sic) that must result in incarceration and that there is a case for stiffer penalties than have been previously imposed as counsel for the Crown so passionately argued.” 65. In the circumstances, I am satisfied that there is no basis upon which we could interfere with the sentence imposed by the trial judge in the circumstances of this case...”*

[24.] In considering an appropriate sentence the regard was had for the comments of the Authors of Archbold 2004 edition particularly paragraphs 20-17 to paragraphs 20-19 which reads as follows:

*“In R v. Millberry, R v. Morgan; R v. Lackenby [2003] 1 Cr. App. R. 25, the Court of Appeal issued revised guidelines in relation to sentencing for rape (replacing those in R v. Billam, 82 Cr. App. R. 357, CA). The Court stressed that whilst sentencer should proceed in accordance with these guidelines, its essential that they be treated as guidelines only, as mechanistic application could produce sentences that were inappropriately high or low. In accessing the seriousness of any given case, the court should take into account the degree of harm done the level of culpability of the offender and the risk posed by him. The starting point for any offence should be the same whether or not there was some preexisting relationship or acquaintanceship or whether the victim was a stranger, with the sentence being adjusted in accordance with the particular matters of aggravation and mitigation.....The starting point on conviction for a single offence of rape on an adult*

*victim by a single offender should be five years imprisonment; however, the starting point should be eight where (a) there were two or more offenders,(b) there was abuse of trust including the offender being a person whom the victim would have trusted by virtue of his occupation(e.g. taxi driver)(c) the victim was abducted;(d) the victim was a child or especially vulnerable,€ the offence was racially aggravated or targeted at a victim belonging to a vulnerable minority..... As to mitigation a guilty plea spared the victim from having to give evidence and might demonstrate that the offender appreciated how wrong his conduct was and that he regretted it, maximum discount should only be allowed in the case of a timely plea. Good character should not be ignored, but could not justify a substantial reduction from an otherwise appropriate sentence.....”*

[25.] The court in consideration in this case the Convict did not plead guilty at the first opportunity and compelled the victim to testify and she was subject to cross examination. The victim was observed to by the court to be laboring in her ability to see as a result of the injuries done to the left side of her face clearly those injuries occurred when she was violently struck several times with a bottle of Gordon’s Gin. The victim was clearly having issues walking and required the assistance of court personnel and a cane, whether those are a consequence of the assault or unrelated issues are unclear but given the images shown on the surveillance footage to those of the victim when she appeared in court, it is a night and day comparison and her life has obviously changed and not for the better. The convict appears to offer some apology but does seemly stops short in offering details. The Court notes that prior to his incarnation the Convict appeared to have engaged in more religious and spiritual enlightenment, perhaps cynically the Magistrate sentence of attending church may have resonated with the Convict or perhaps the interactions with his neighbor or his friend/employer, whatever brought about this aspect in the Convict’s disposition it is hoped that it remains relevant and it provides some absolution.

[26.] However, the idea that any adult can engage in the brutality which was visited upon the virtual complainant in this case was unfathomable and cannot in any society be excused or explained away by abuse of alcohol even though that itself is a tragedy it offers no excuse. The Court having weighted the mitigating factors that the Convict expressed a modicum of remorse and a partial recognition as to his conduct and is redeemable. Those when balanced against the violence the Court must both punish this Convict for these offences as well as offer a deterrence against any further perpetrators who considers violence towards women as acceptable.

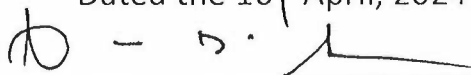
## DISPOSITION

[27.] The court acknowledges that the convict is a forty seven year old man and has clearly made fundamental changes to his life since the occurrence of this event which has catastrophically altered the lives of both individuals. It is hoped that the convict can continue to evolve and become a better person and clearly there is redemptive qualities, the brutality of this crime however requires that the Court send a message that the conduct cannot under any circumstances be condoned or excused and that a custodial sentence reinforces society's aversion to such offences.

[27.] The Court hereby convicts Mr. Romeo Major of Rape contrary to section 6(a) of the Sexual Offences Act and Grievous Harm contrary to section 270 contrary to of the Penal Code of the Statute Laws of the Bahamas and imposes a twelve (12) years sentence on the Rape and Seven years on the Grievous Harm sentences to run concurrently commencing from the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Convict has engaged in Carpentry previously perhaps he can engage as a teaching assistance or further enhance his skills while at BDOCs if classes are available it is recommended that the Convict is so enrolled. It is perhaps also necessary that the Convict is also enrolled in Anger Management classes if available and substance abuse classes.

[28.] The Convict may appeal the sentence of this Court to the Court of Appeal within the statutory time.

Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024



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**Andrew Forbes**  
**Justice of the Supreme Court**