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SUPERIOR COURT
OF GUAM



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

PEOPLE OF GUAM,

CRIMINAL CASE NO. CF0727-22

vs.

DECISION AND ORDER

**JOINER ANES SORAM aka Joyner Soram
aka Junior Soram aka "Slim Thug",**

Defendant.

INTRODUCTION

This matter came before the Honorable Vernon P. Perez on May 20, 2025, for hearing on Defendant **JOINER ANES SORAM aka Joyner Soram aka Junior Soram aka "Slim Thug"'s** ("Defendant") Motion to Reduce Sentence. Present were Assistant Attorney General Dante CH Harootunian on behalf of the People of Guam ("the Government") and Defendant with counsel, Assistant Public Defender Mary Hill. Having reviewed the pleadings, the arguments presented, and the record, the Court now issues the following Decision and Order.

BACKGROUND

On April 14, 2023, Defendant was found guilty by a jury of his peers to Robbery (As a Second Degree Felony), with attached Special Allegation: Possession or Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission of a Felony and Aggravated Assault (As a Third Degree Felony) with attached Special Allegation: Possession or Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission of a Felony. Defendant was sentenced to five (5) years for Robbery (As a Second Degree Felony), seven (7) years for the Special Allegation: Possession or Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission of a

1 Felony attached to the Robbery charge, five (5) years for Aggravated Assault (As a Third Degree
2 Felony), and seven (7) years for the Special Allegation: Possession or Use of a Deadly Weapon
3 in the Commission of a Felony attached to the Aggravated Assault charge. *See* Judgment of
4 Conviction (Jury Trial), Jul. 13, 2023. The sentences imposed for the Robbery and Aggravated
5 Assault charges were to run concurrent with each other, and the sentences imposed for the Special
6 Allegations were to run concurrent with each other but consecutive to the underlying felonies. *Id.*
7 In total, Defendant was sentenced to twelve (12) years of imprisonment. *Id.* Defendant appealed
8 and the convictions were affirmed by the Supreme Court of Guam. *See People v. Soram*, 2024
9 Guam 10.

10 On April 17, 2025, Defendant filed the instant Motion. On April 29, 2025, the
11 Government filed its Response. On May 20, 2025, the Court heard arguments on the Motion and
12 subsequently placed the matter under advisement.

13 DISCUSSION

14 The reduction of a sentence after entry of judgment is governed by 8 G.C.A. § 120.46,
15 which provides as follows:

16 The court may correct an illegal sentence at any time and may correct a sentence
17 imposed in an illegal manner within the time provided herein for the reduction of
18 sentence. The court may reduce a sentence within one hundred twenty (120) days
19 after the sentence is imposed, or within one hundred twenty (120) days after receipt
20 by the court of a mandate issued upon affirmance of the judgment or dismissal of
21 the appeal, or within one hundred twenty (120) days after entry of any order or
22 judgment of the Supreme Court of Guam, having the effect of upholding a judgment
23 of conviction.

24 8 G.C.A. § 120.46. The trial court has the discretion “to decide if, on further reflection, the
25 original sentence now seems unduly harsh.” *United States v. Maynard*, 485 F.2d 247, 248 (9th
26 Cir. 1973). It is essentially a plea for leniency. *Id.*

27 Defendant moves the Court to reduce his incarceration time and to “suspend a portion of
28 the sentence imposed and/or order that any incarceration be served at the Salvation Army
Lighthouse Recovery Center.” *See* Mot. Reduce at 3, Apr. 17, 2025. Defendant “acknowledges
that he needs treatment for substance abuse dependency” and sets forth that it is not possible to

1 effectuate his “successful rehabilitation back into society if he continues to be confined in
2 isolation without access to any programs, treatment, or means by which he would be able to
3 receive the treatment he needs.” *Id.* at 2-3.

4 Under Guam law, Defendant faces a mandatory minimum term of five (5) years for the
5 Robbery conviction. *See* 9 G.C.A. § 40.20(b) (“the court shall impose a sentence of imprisonment
6 of a minimum term of five (5) years and may impose a maximum term of up to ten (10) years;
7 the minimum term imposed shall not be suspended nor may probation be imposed in lieu of the
8 minimum term nor shall parole or work release be granted before completion of the minimum
9 term.”). Defendant also faces a mandatory minimum of five (5) years for the Special Allegation:
10 Possession or Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission of a Felony, which must run
11 consecutive to the underlying felony. *See* 9 G.C.A. 80.37(a)(1) (“in addition to the punishment
12 imposed for the commission of such felony, be imprisoned for a term of not less than five (5)
13 years nor more than twenty-five (25) years”); (c) (“No person convicted and sentenced hereunder
14 shall be eligible for parole or probation until he shall have served at least five (5) years in
15 prison.”); and (e) (“The term required to be imposed by this Section shall not run concurrently
16 with any term of imprisonment imposed for the commission of any other felony”). Thus, at
17 minimum, Defendant must serve at least ten (10) years of incarceration at the Department of
18 Corrections. Accordingly, the Court is unable to grant Defendant’s request to serve his
19 incarceration term at the Salvation Army Lighthouse Recovery Center. The Court will order,
20 however, in light of Defendant’s interest in treatment and rehabilitation, that Defendant apply for
21 and if accepted, complete the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (“RSAT”) Program at the
22 Department of Corrections. The Court, upon further reflection, will also reduce the sentence
23 imposed for the Special Allegation: Possession or Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission
24 of a Felony from seven (7) years to five (5) years. This will reduce Defendant’s total incarceration
25 time from twelve (12) years to ten (10) years.

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1 **CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons, the Court hereby GRANTS IN PART Defendant's Motion for
3 Reduction in Sentence. An Amended Judgment will be filed contemporaneously with this
4 Decision and order.

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED** this 11th day of June, 2025.

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10 **HONORABLE VERNON P. PEREZ**
11 Judge, Superior Court of Guam
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Deputy Clerk, Superior Court of Guam