



A Genre Analysis of Two Texts: A Court Appeal and A Murder Case Using English for Specific Purposes Model

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Article History

Received: 2025.01.21

Revised: 2025.06.01

Accepted: 2025.06.08

Published: 2025.06.18

Keywords

Genre Analysis

Legal Discourse

Rhetorical strategies

Technology

How to cite:

Opoku, K., Ameyaw, C., Duah, S. K. & Annoh, R. A. (2025). A Genre Analysis of Two Texts: A Court Appeal and A Murder Case Using English for Specific Purposes Model. *Journal of Research and Academic Writing*, 2(1), 36-49.

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Abstract

This paper presents a genre analysis of two legal texts using English for Specific Purposes (ESP) principles to identify their discourse patterns and genre-specific features. ESP emphasises language use in professional contexts, focusing on the communication needs of specific fields. The texts analysed include A Court Appeal document and a report on A Murder Case. Using ESP frameworks, the analysis identifies the linguistic moves and steps that fulfill communicative purposes in legal writing. The research seeks to understand how language serves the specialised needs of legal professionals. A qualitative textual analysis method was employed, segmenting the texts into rhetorical structures based on ESP models. The findings show that legal discourse uses distinct rhetorical and linguistic strategies. Passage A, written by a grieving family, uses emotive language and an urgent tone to express suspicion and appeal. Passage B, a legal judgment, uses formal legal language and a structured format to present the grounds for appeal and the court's ruling. The study reveals how language is adapted for different functions within legal contexts and underscores the importance of precision in legal communication. It also suggests pedagogical implications for ESP teaching, especially in training learners for effective communication in legal and other specialised fields.

Introduction

This paper uses English for Specific Purposes (ESP) principles to analyse two legal texts – a court appeal and a murder case report – focusing on their structure, language, and communicative purpose. ESP targets language use in specialised academic and professional contexts, addressing the needs of specific fields. The study identifies rhetorical moves and steps that reflect the communicative demands of legal practitioners, guided by the question: How does language function in court appeal and murder case documents through the ESP lens?

Legal language is crucial in the justice system, as documents serve distinct communicative roles (Davenport, 2025). In Ghana, legal texts combine British common law and indigenous customs, creating unique discourse patterns that are important for both legal professionals and learners (Piszcz & Sierocka, 2020; Hoodbhoy & Amjad, 2023).



Genre analysis in ESP examines linguistic features and communicative purposes within specialised domains. Swales (1990) highlights rhetorical moves as functional stages writers use to achieve aims, emphasising communicative purpose and discourse communities (Flowerdew, 2002). His socio-rhetorical framework enables a systematic study of text structure and intertextuality, forming a foundation for ESP genre studies (Hyland, 2004). Bhatia (1993) elaborates on genre's structural and stylistic features in professional contexts, while Flowerdew (2002) and Hyland (2007) offer insights on genre variation and pedagogy. Practical models by Smith (2015) and Johnson (2017) follow conventional academic formats.

Ghana's Legal System

Ghana's legal system is a hybrid of British common law and indigenous customary practices (Allott, 1960). Since independence in 1957, its constitutional framework has integrated statutory, judicial, and customary law, with the Constitution as the supreme authority (Ocran, 2006; Mensa-Bonsu, 2021). The judiciary upholds the rule of law, and international treaties inform the legal framework (Brobbeey, 2008; Chesterman, 2008). Common law courts handle civil and criminal matters, while customary courts address family, land, and chieftaincy issues (Bentsi-Enchill, 1964).

Cases like the Afoko-Alangdi murder trial and recent presidential election petitions highlight the judiciary's role in Ghana's democracy (Myjoyonline, 2019; Graphic Online, 2023). Legal texts here are highly structured, using precise language and rhetorical strategies to support legal reasoning (Lötscher, 2016; Davis, 2021), with precedent and citation reinforcing consistency (Swales, 1990).

Using ESP genre analysis, this study examines Ghanaian legal texts—court appeals and murder reports—to reveal their communicative aims and conventions, drawing on Swales, Bhatia, and Hyland's frameworks within Ghana's dual legal system.

Literature Review

The definition and scope of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) have long been subjects of scholarly debate (Belcher, 2006; O'Connell & Chaplier, 2015). As general English courses increasingly adopt a more specialised, learner-centred approach—often guided by needs analysis—the distinction between General English and ESP becomes progressively less clear. Strevens (1977) defines ESP as English used globally for specific activities and subjects, tailored to learners' needs in academic or professional contexts. Fundamentally, ESP involves teaching English for particular fields such as law, medicine, or business.

Understanding learners' reasons for studying a language boosts motivation and enables tailored teaching. ESP focuses on learners and their acquisition processes, with content and methods tailored to specific goals (Topuzov, Malykhin, & Aristova, 2020). Coffey (1985) views ESP as an efficient path to academic or occupational proficiency.

Far (2008) argues that ESP places greater emphasis on language in context rather than isolated grammatical structures. As ESP often involves adult learners in professional settings (EOP), levels of motivation are generally higher than in general English contexts. Carver (1983) emphasises the importance of learner autonomy, aiming to cultivate independent and active language users. Hutchinson and Waters (1987) define ESP not by particular materials or teaching methods, but by its focus on the learner's purpose for studying English.

Strevens (1977) distinguishes between absolute and variable characteristics of ESP. Absolute features involve teaching English tailored to the specific needs of learners in particular fields, using suitable syntax, discourse, and semantics. Variable features allow flexibility in methods and skills focus, such as emphasising reading over speaking, based on context. Robinson (1991) supports this view,



considering ESP a goal-driven approach grounded in needs analysis to create focused, homogeneous courses. Nevertheless, learners' needs are often diverse, and the constraints of time and resources can limit the extent to which every specialised requirement can be addressed in a single classroom setting. Dudley-Evans (in Basturkmen, 2021) builds upon Strevens' framework, offering three absolute characteristics of ESP:

1. It is designed to meet the specific needs of the learners.
2. It draws on the underlying methodology and practices of the target discipline.
3. It is centred on the language appropriate to these practices, in terms of grammar, lexis, register, study skills, discourse, and genre.

He refines the model by eliminating the rigid contrast with General English and adding variable traits that reflect ESP's diversity. ESP may or may not target a specific discipline, age group, or proficiency. It is best seen as an approach—or, as Hyland (2007) calls it, an "attitude of mind"—aligned with Hutchinson and Waters' (1987) emphasis on purpose-driven content and methods. This study fills a gap in ESP research by examining legal English in Ghana, particularly court appeal judgments and murder case reports. While Swales, Bhatia, and Hyland have analysed academic and professional genres, Ghanaian legal texts remain underexplored. Their theories on rhetorical moves, professional discourse, and pedagogy underpin the analysis of communicative purposes and linguistic features in these documents.

Methodology

This paper adopts a qualitative textual analysis approach, focusing on close reading with minimal assumptions (Belsey, 2013). Textual analysis helps uncover literal meaning, symbolism, assumptions, and embedded values. Tuzlukova and Singh (2019) define it as a way to understand how people interpret the world through meaningful texts.

The study examined two legal passages from the 2023/2024 semester exam of MPhil English students (MPEE 819: Genre Studies) at Christian Service University. These texts, selected after the exam, were analysed as distinct genres to highlight their structural and rhetorical features. Guided by the English for Specific Purposes (ESP) model, the analysis involved breaking the texts into paragraphs and labelling sentences as topic (moves) or supporting (steps), which were then examined within the ESP framework.

ESP centres on teaching language for specific academic or professional needs, focusing on practical skills relevant to fields like law or medicine (Dudley-Evans & St. John, 1998). Key components include needs analysis and genre analysis to understand learners' goals and text structures (Hutchinson & Waters, 1987). By addressing communicative demands in specialised areas, ESP equips learners to use language effectively in their disciplines (Flowerdew & Peacock, 2001).

Explanation of Moves and Steps

- a) Each move in the analysis corresponds to a distinct stage of the legal or criminal process, such as the introduction, background, grounds of appeal, respondent's response, and judgment. These were identified through titles, subtitles, and the content presented. Encoding involved pinpointing the main idea of each paragraph: titles were classified as moves, sub-titles as steps, while within the body, main ideas were moves and supporting sentences were steps.
- b) Within each move, some steps further break down the information provided.



- c) The analysis follows a clear order, using connecting words. It starts with the case introduction, then details the appeal grounds, the respondent's response, and ends with the judgment.

Findings

This section presents the results of the findings in line with the research question underpinning the study, namely, how does language function within the genres of court appeal and murder case documentation, as analysed through the lens of English for Specific Purposes? This analysis involves two passages.

PASSAGE: A (*Police Case*)

The family of Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira, former Krontihene of Goaso, raised serious concerns about his death, suspecting it was deliberate and linked to chieftaincy conflicts. Signs of violence and blood suggest foul play. He died on the day his petition to the Asantehene was to be heard. Despite searches, his body was found late on his farm, prompting questions about the delay. The family has called on the IGP for a prompt investigation, believing the death may be politically motivated. The key conclusions are summarised as follows:

1. **Suspicion of Foul Play:** The family insists that Nana Yenhyira's death was a premeditated act linked to the Goaso chieftaincy conflict, not random violence or robbery. They point to evidence of brutal and inhumane treatment, showing a clear intent to harm him.
2. **Potential Chieftaincy Conflict:** Nana Yenhyira's death, which occurred on the day of his hearing before the Asantehene during a chieftaincy dispute, suggests a possible connection to the ongoing power struggle. The timing raises suspicions that his death was meant to obstruct or silence him.
3. **Discovery of the Body:** The late discovery of Nana Yenhyira's body on his farm, despite extensive searches, raises doubts about the initial search's thoroughness and potential evidence tampering. Visible injuries and blood support the family's claim of foul play.
4. **Call for Investigation:** The family demands a thorough investigation involving the police and the National Investigation Bureau, showing their resolve for justice. They are willing to cooperate but warn that delays may lead them to hire private investigators.
5. **Appeal to Asantehene:** The family also appeals to the Asantehene to continue with the case brought before him by Nana Yenhyira, emphasising their vested interest in resolving the chieftaincy dispute and pursuing justice for their deceased relative.

Identification of moves and steps in passage A

The moves were identified as the major topic sentences, and the supporting sentences, examples and illustrations were identified as steps under each move.

Move 1: *Introduction*

Step 1: Wake up, call to Inspector General of police to expedite action on the demise of Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira family members.

Step 2: The police department must join forces with the National Investigative Bureau to bring perpetrators who executed the death of Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira to book.

Move 2: *The circumstances surrounding the demise of Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira.*

Step 1: The deceased was brutally assaulted before his death.

Step 2: Nana's death was orchestrated by the assailants.

Step 3: Chieftaincy dispute chiefly plays an integral role in Nana's demise.



Move 3: *The resolution of the chieftaincy dispute*

Step 1 The grapevine of hither to the arrangement of chiefly resolution of chieftaincy dispute between Nana and how and when he died.

Step 2: Nana was said to have petitioned Otumfo Osei Tutu about the chieftaincy dispute.

Step 3: Nana was said to have died the very day the case was to be heard by Asantehene.

Step 4: Nana was said to have died on his farm on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

Move 4: *Measures to find the deceased of Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira.*

Step 1: The entire community organised a search to find him.

Step 2: Information centres and radio Stations made announcements of Nana's missing.

Move 5: *A communique issued by the deceased's family.*

Step 1: The family do not want to take the law into their hands.

Step 2: The delay in investigating by the police would warrant the family seeking the services of private investigators.

Step 3: Asantehene must continue with the petition brought before him by the late Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira.

Passage A: Summary of Findings

4.3.1 Background and Introduction: The statement issued by the family of the former Krontihene of the Goaso Traditional Area, Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira, sets the context for their appeal to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Dr. George Akuffo Dampare. It highlights the urgency of resolving the cause of Nana Yenhyira's death and calls for thorough investigations.

4.3.2 Urgency and Appeal for Speedy Investigations: The family emphasises the need for prompt action, urging the IGP to ensure speedy investigations into Nana Yenhyira's death. They express concern over the circumstances leading to his demise, suggesting foul play and indicating a desire for swift justice.

4.3.3 Call for Collaboration and Comprehensive Investigation: The family requests collaboration between the police and the National Investigation Bureau (NIB) to conduct a comprehensive investigation. They seek to uncover the truth behind Nana Yenhyira's death and hold accountable any individuals involved.

4.3.4 Allegations of Premeditated Violence: The statement claims Nana Yenhyira was cruelly mistreated before his death, implying the attack was planned. The family rejects the idea it was a random robbery and believes it is connected to chieftaincy disputes.

4.3.5 Suspicions of Chieftaincy Conflict Involvement: The statement suggests a possible connection between Nana Yenhyira's death and the ongoing chieftaincy conflict in the Goaso Traditional Area. It indicates that Nana Yenhyira had petitioned the Asantehene concerning chieftaincy issues, hinting at a motive for his demise.

4.3.6 Details of Nana Yenhyira's Disappearance and Death: The statement describes how Nana Yenhyira went missing on the day of his hearing before the Asantehene, and later his body was found on his farm showing signs of violence.

4.3.7 Commitment to Legal Process: Despite their grievances, the family asserts their commitment to the legal process and expresses a willingness to cooperate with official investigations. They refrain from making direct accusations but warn of potential independent inquiries if investigations are delayed.



4.3.8 Appeal to Asantehene: The family calls on the Asantehene to continue with the case brought before him by Nana Yenhyira concerning chieftaincy issues. They express their interest in resolving the case and seek the Asantehene's involvement in pursuing justice for their deceased kinsman.

Identification of moves and steps in passage B

The moves were identified as the major topic sentences, and the supporting sentences, examples and illustrations were identified as steps under each move.

PASSAGE: B (*Court Case*)

This passage summarises a High Court judgment in Accra on Mahamadu Mumuni's appeal against sentences for conspiracy to commit robbery and robbery. The court found errors in the conviction, overturned one count, but upheld the other. The judgment outlines the appeal grounds, the Republic's response, and grants relief to the appellant on one count due to legal errors.

Address to call the case, OR The title of the court case: (*Name of the court, location of the court. The date of the appeal request, case.*)

Move 1: *An address to call an appeal case:*

The passage begins with basic information about the case, including court details, the date, and the presiding judge.

Step 1: Court name.

Step 2: Location of the court.

Step 3: Day and Date of the appeal request.

Step 4: Name of the Judge.

Move 2: *Suit No CR / 047 / 2022*

Step 1: Case report

Step 2: Case number

Step 3: *The Year* the case was filed.

Move 3: *Name of the accused versus the Republic.*

Step 1: Accuse name

Step 2: Defendant's name.

Move 4: Background of the Appeal

- It outlines the background of the appeal, stating that it was filed on behalf of the appellant, who was the 1st Accused at the trial court.
- The appellant sought leave to file an appeal out of time, which was granted by the High Court.
- The appeal was against the sentences imposed for two counts of Conspiracy to commit crime (Robbery and Robbery), which were issued by the Circuit Court "1", Accra.

Move 5: The date on which the appeal was filed.

Step 1: Background information on the previous judgment before the filing of the appeal.

Step 2: The appeal was filed on the 29th March 2022.

Move 6: The grounds on which the appeal was filed

Step 1: The Appeal was against the sentences on two (2) counts of conspiracy to commit a crime, namely Robbery.

Step 2: The appeal was filed pursuant to leave granted to file the appeal out of time by the High Court

Step 3: The name of the judge who pronounced the sentence.



Step 4: Number of years the accused was sentenced.

Move 7: Previous judgement that necessitated the appeal.

Step 1: The grounds of appeal are laid out, starting with the original ground and followed by further grounds.

Step 2: Each ground explains why the appellant sees the sentence as harsh, citing regret, lack of representation, chance for rehabilitation, and harm from long imprisonment.

Step 3: "That the sentence imposed on the Appellant is harsh and excessive
Considering the conditions of detention within the prison confines,
Hence his plea for mitigation. The further grounds of appeal filed were the following:"

Step 4: "That the Appellant has regretted his actions and has really learnt from his actions
over the period served in incarceration under the harsh and severe conditions
of detention and vowed never to engage in any criminal activity."

Step 5: "That the Appellant is a first-time offender who was unrepresented,
illiterate and unskilled in law, his potential to lead a meaningful defence either
by way of countering a conviction and a sentence is limited.
He therefore pleads with your Lordship to kindly consider the adverse
and psychological effects of lengthy incarceration and commute his sentence."

Step 6: "That the Appellant's prolonged stay in prison may not achieve
the reformatory effect but rather may produce a hardened criminal instead.
Therefore, as a reformed person, it would be beneficial
for him to contribute to society. Hence his plea for a reduction in his sentence."

Step 7: "That it is therefore these reasons that he is praying
the Honourable Court to look at the sentence of the Appellant
again, considering the young age of the Appellant as a first-time offender. "
The offender will be allowed to come out of prison reformed
and become a useful law-abiding citizen, hence his plea for a reduction in his sentence."

Move 8: Response to the appeal case

Step 1: The name of the respondent

Step 2: The Date of response

Step 3: Response from the Respondent

Step 5: The Respondent, represented by a learned Assistant State Attorney, filed a response.

Step 6: The attorney acknowledges that the conviction on the 1st count
of conspiracy was wrong in law as the appellant pleaded not guilty but was convicted.

Step 7: However, regarding the 2nd count of Robbery, where the appellant pleaded
guilty with an explanation, the attorney submits that the sentence
of 20 years IHL was appropriate and should be maintained.

Step 8: The attorney recognises the error of law and the miscarriage
of justice regarding the conviction and sentence on the 1st count,
and thus, proposes to set aside the conviction and sentence on that count.

Move 9: The context in which the response to the appeal was made

Step 1: The accused person was unlawfully sentenced on count 1

Step 2: Sentence on count two was justified.

Move 10: Judgment

Step 1: The judgment concludes by setting aside the conviction and sentence
on the 1st count of Conspiracy to Commit Crime (Robbery)
Due to an error of law and a miscarriage of justice.



Step 2: The appellant is acquitted on that count, while the sentence
The 2nd count of Robbery remains upheld.

Discussions

Passage A: "Seeking Justice: The Mysterious Death of Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira"

4.5.1 Discussion of Potential Motives:

The family believes Nana Yenhyira's death is connected to chieftaincy tensions, especially since it happened on the day of his hearing before the Asantehene. This suggests the death may have been planned and raises questions about who is responsible.

4.5.2 Implications of Traditional Authority and Legal Systems:

The appeal to both the IGP and the Asantehene highlights the overlap between traditional and formal legal systems. It raises questions about how effectively these institutions collaborate in resolving conflicts.

4.5.3 Challenges in Investigation and Accountability:

Delays and mistrust in official investigations prompt the family to consider private inquiries. This reflects broader concerns about law enforcement capacity and accountability in such sensitive cases.

4.5.4 Role of Community Dynamics:

The community's active involvement, through searches and media appeals, shows solidarity with the family. It also underscores tensions between informal efforts and reliance on formal legal channels.

4.5.5 Ethical Considerations and Moral Imperatives:

The family's appeal stresses fairness and justice without making quick judgments. It raises critical ethical questions about everyone's role in ensuring accountability.

4.5.6 Calls for Systemic Change and Reform:

The case has sparked calls for reform in managing traditional conflicts and preventing violence. It highlights the need for enhanced governance and the crucial role of traditional leaders in fostering peace.

Passage B: "Navigating Legal Turbulence: A Case Study in Appellate Justice and Criminal Sentencing"

4.6.1 Examination of Legal and Procedural Errors:

The conviction on count one was flawed due to procedural and evidential issues. This raises the question of whether the appellant received a fair trial under the law.

4.6.2 Impact of the Imposed Sentence:

The sentence must be reviewed in light of the potential for rehabilitation and mitigating factors. Long-term imprisonment may harm reintegration and increase reoffending.

4.6.3 Role of Judicial Review in Correcting Errors:

The court's decision to overturn the conviction on count one affirms the value of judicial review. It ensures fairness by addressing miscarriages of justice.

4.6.4 Rationale Behind Upheld Sentence on Count Two:



The court upheld the second count due to the gravity of the offence and the guilty plea. This reflects a focus on deterrence, public safety, and legal consistency.

4.6.5 Systemic Issues in the Criminal Justice System:

The appellant's lack of legal counsel and legal literacy highlights inequality in legal access. It points to the need for reforms to protect vulnerable defendants.

4.6.6 Pursuing Fairness, Accountability, and Justice:

This case reveals the complexities of criminal justice and the need for continuous review. Ensuring fairness and accountability remains central to public trust and legal integrity.

Passage B: Summary of the Discussions Findings

4.8 Grant of Leave to Appeal: The decision to grant leave to appeal out of time indicates a recognition by the High Court of the importance of ensuring fair access to the appeals process, even if deadlines were missed initially.

4.8.1 Grounds of Appeal: The grounds of appeal include common issues like harsh sentencing, rehabilitation, no legal help, and chances for change. These show the many things judges must think about when deciding sentences.

4.8.2 Response of the Republic/Respondent: The acknowledgment by the Respondent of the error in the conviction on count one demonstrates a commitment to fairness and justice, as well as a willingness to rectify mistakes.

4.8.3 Decision and Judgment: The decision to cancel the conviction and sentence on count one shows careful attention to the law and a commitment to fairness and justice.

4.8 Differences and Similarities in both passage A and B

Similarities:

- Both passages deal with legal matters— Passage A involves a criminal investigation, while Passage B presents a court judgment.
- Each passage uses formal language appropriate to its context.
- Both contain structured information to communicate their respective messages.

Differences:

- **Genre:** Passage A is a journalistic/legal report focused on a criminal case and community appeal; Passage B is a formal legal judgment detailing a court's decision.
- **Purpose:** Passage A aims to inform the public and appeal for justice; Passage B aims to record and explain a legal ruling.
- **Language Style:** Passage A uses accessible language to reach a broad audience; Passage B employs specialised legal terminology intended for legal professionals and the parties involved.
- **Structure:** Passage A is narrative and descriptive; Passage B is analytical and procedural, outlining legal arguments and judicial reasoning.



Conclusion

Passage A presents a formal appeal from the family of the late Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira, former Krontihene of Goaso, urging the Inspector General of Police to investigate his death, suspected to be linked to a chieftaincy dispute, given visible signs of violence and a prior petition to the Asantehene. While avoiding direct accusations, the family is willing to cooperate with authorities or pursue independent investigations, also appealing to the Asantehene to address the issues raised by the deceased. This appeal effectively draws attention to potential injustice, maintains a formal tone, and remains flexible in its pursuit of accountability. Passage B outlines a court judgment on an appeal by Mahamadu Mumuni, the first accused in a robbery case, where the court sets aside his conviction on the first count due to trial errors but upholds the second based on sufficient evidence. The judgment effectively applies legal reasoning, follows judicial norms, and strikes a balance in favour of justice. Together, both passages underscore the pursuit of justice—Passage A through civic appeal and Passage B through legal adjudication—highlighting due process, accountability, and the rule of law.

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Appendix

Passage A

The family of the former Krontihene of the Goaso Traditional Area, Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira, has appealed to the Inspector General of the Police (IGP), Dr George Akuffo Dampare, for speedy investigations to resolve the cause of death of their kinsman. The family urged the police to collaborate with the National Investigation Bureau (NIB) to undertake a comprehensive investigation to bring to book any persons involved in Nana Yenhyira's death. In a statement issued and copied to the *Daily Graphic* last Thursday, the Head of the family, Nana Kwadwo Osei Mensah, said there was evidence that the Krontihene was "brutalised under inhumane conditions before his death." "This can never be seen or believed to be an attack from someone who wanted to steal from his farm or rob him. His death is premeditated, well calculated and executed by certain people who do not see eye-to-eye with Akora Kwadwo (Nana Yenhyira)," it said. The statement said the incident leading to the "callous" death of the former Krontihene of Goaso might be linked to the chieftaincy conflict which had been lingering for some time now and currently before the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. Nana Yenhyira was said to have petitioned the Asantehene concerning some chieftaincy issues in the traditional area. The statement said that on the day the case was to be heard by the Asantehene, Nana Yenhyira died under bizarre circumstances at the Ayomso forest, where he had gone to farm on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. He did not return home, and so a search party was organised by both family and friends to look for him. The search continued for days, with a series of announcements made on radio stations and information centres across the towns and communities around the Goaso Traditional Area and its environs. The statement said the family later received the news of the death of the former Krontihene after his lifeless body was found on his farm, a place the search party had searched several times when he went missing. "Upon visiting the lifeless body, we saw him lying in a supine position with several marks of violence and blood all over his body, which we suspect foul play," the statement said. "As a family, we do not want to take the law into our own hands, but a delay in investigations could push the family to conduct its investigation; even if we could afford the services of private investigators, we shall do so. "The family do not want to accuse anyone for now, but whoever did this thing to us should know that we are going to cast our nets wide to search for the needed information and present same to the police in their investigations," it added. The family also called on the Asantehene to continue with the case brought before him by "our dear Nana Kwadwo Kumah Yenhyira as the family members have much interest in it," it said.



Passage B

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF JUDICATURE, IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, LAW COURT COMPLEX (CRIMINAL DIVISION "2") HELD IN ACCRA ON MONDAY, 24TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024 BEFORE HER

LADYSHIP JUSTICE MARIE-LOUISE SIMMONS (MRS.), JUSTICE OF THE HIGH COURT

SUIT NO.: CR/0474/2022

MAHAMADU MUMUNI @ OSAMAN

VRS.

THE REPUBLIC

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JUDGMENT

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This is a judgment hinging on a Petition of Appeal filed on the 9th May 2022 on behalf of the above-named Appellant, who was the 1st Accused person at the trial Court. The appeal was filed pursuant to leave granted to file an appeal out of time by the High Court on the 29th March 2022. The Appeal was against the sentences on two (2) counts of Conspiracy to commit crime, namely Robbery and Robbery. The Appellant was sentenced on the 21st July 2014 by the Circuit Court "1", Accra then presided over by His Honour Francis Obiri Esq. (as he then was) to fifteen (15) years IHL on count one (1) and twenty (20) years IHL on count two (2), both counts to run concurrently. The grounds of appeal were stated as follows:

The original ground of appeal was:

1. That the sentence imposed on the Appellant is harsh and excessive considering the conditions of detention within the prison confines, hence his plea for mitigation. The further grounds of appeal filed were the following:
2. That the Appellant has regretted his actions and has really learnt from his actions over the period of time served in incarceration under the harsh and severe conditions of detention and vowed never to engage in any criminal activity.
3. That the Appellant is a first-time offender who was unrepresented, illiterate and unskilled in law, his potential to lead a meaningful defence either by way of countering a conviction and a sentence is limited. He therefore pleads with your Lordship to kindly consider the negative and psychological effects of long incarceration and commute his sentence.
4. That the Appellant's prolonged stay in prison may not achieve the reformatory effect but rather may produce a hardened criminal instead. Therefore, as a reformed person, it would be beneficial for him to contribute to society. Hence, his plea for a reduction in his sentence.
5. That it is therefore these reasons that he is praying the Honourable Court to look at the sentence of the Appellant again considering the young age of the Appellant as a first-time offender will be given



an opportunity to come out of prison reformed and become a useful law-abiding citizen, hence his plea for reduction in his sentence.

The Republic/Respondent, herein afterwards referred to as the Respondent, filed its response through a learned Assistant State Attorney, Selasi Kuwornu, on the 24th October 2023. In her response, the learned attorney in analysing the sentences of the Appellant, especially on count one, observed, acknowledged and submitted that the conviction of the Appellant on the 1st count of conspiracy to commit crime was wrong in law as he pleaded not guilty but was yet convicted. On the 2nd count of Robbery, where the Appellant pleaded guilty with explanation, she submitted that the sentence of 20 years IHL meted out to the Appellant on the 2nd count was appropriate and must be maintained. Having noticed that the conviction and sentence of the Appellant on count one (1) was clearly wrong and sinned against the aforementioned constitutional and statutory provisions, and with the power of rehearing, and having noticed an error of law and a substantial miscarriage of justice in this regard, I will have both the conviction and sentence on ground one, on the offence of Conspiracy to Commit Crime, namely Robbery, set aside and acquit the Appellant on that court.