



Budiman (left) and Norfaezah get reduced sentence of 12 years' jail for drug possession.

Duo escape hangman's noose, sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment

KUCHING: An Indonesian man and his female friend were both sentenced to 12-years jail by the High Court here on Thursday after they pleaded guilty to an amended charge of possessing 149.1 grammes of syabu.

Labourer Budiman Sabari, 37 and housewife Norfaezah Tela, 39, were initially charged under Section 39B(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and punishable under Section 39B(2) of the same Act which carries the mandatory death penalty for drug trafficking.

On Nov 18 last year, their lawyer, Steven Beti had submitted a letter of representation to the Attorney General Chambers to amend the case from drug trafficking to Section 12(2) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and punishable under subsection 39A(2) of the same Act read together with Section 34 of the Penal Code for drug possession.

For the amended charge, both were charged for having a common intention for possessing 149.1 grammes of syabu around 11.50pm at a house in Kampung Tengah Alit, Kabong on Nov 10, 2020.

According to the facts of the case, police raided the house and found the drugs inside eight plastic packets of different sizes kept inside a bag.

Investigation showed that Budiman had been renting the house for two weeks and Norfaezah was present at the scene during the raid. The landlord of the house denied having knowledge of Budiman's involvement in illegal drugs.

Judge Dr Alwi Abdul Wahab ordered their jail sentence to take effect from the day of their arrest on Nov 10, 2020 with 10 strokes of the rotan for Budiman.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Raya Sangari Ponnann prosecuted in the case.