

Teens plead guilty to gang robbery, ordered sent to Henry Gurney School

KUCHING: The Sessions Court here yesterday ordered five male teenagers to be placed at Henry Gurney School in Puncak Borneo for committing gang robbery at a convenience store in June this year.

Judge Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar ordered two of the accused, both 18, to be sent to the juvenile rehabilitation facility until they turn 21, while the three younger accused—two aged 15 and another aged 14—were each ordered to spend three years there.

The two 18-year-olds were categorised as young offenders, while the younger three were categorised as child offenders.

All five pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 395 of the Penal Code read together with Section 397 of the same Code, which provides for up to 20 years' jail and whipping, upon conviction.

The orders were made pursuant to Section 91(1)(f) of the Child Act 2001.

They committed gang robbery against a 19-year-old male worker at a convenience store along Jalan Tun Jugah at about 4am on June 1.

According to the facts of the case, the victim reported that he was robbed by five unidentified individuals armed with a machete and wooden sticks.

The group threatened and forced the worker to hand over about RM1,000 in cash and various brands of cigarettes.

They then damaged the closed-

circuit television (CCTV) monitor, cash register and other items at the counter before fleeing the premises.

Following their arrest, police investigations, CCTV footage, exhibits, and the suspects' statements provided sufficient evidence to link all five to the gang robbery.

The accused also admitted their involvement and told police that they had committed the robbery on the instructions of an individual identified as 'Liew', who was allegedly the group's leader and mastermind and remains at large.

CCTV footage showed Liew entering the premises first, followed by the five accused.

Liew was seen taking cash from the counter and brandishing a machete at the workers.

One of the accused took various brands of cigarettes from the shelves behind the counter, while two others used wooden sticks to smash the computer monitor, cash register and other items at the counter.

Another accused acted as the driver of a red sedan waiting outside the premises.

CCTV footage also showed two workers at the counter during the incident, appearing frightened after being threatened with weapons.

Deputy public prosecutor Adriana Maisarah Mohd Farid appeared for the prosecution, while all five accused were unrepresented.