

# Man gets 104-year jail over sex crimes against stepdaughters

**Philip Wong**

**SIBU:** A man was sentenced to a total of 104 years in prison and also 18 strokes of the cane by the Sessions Court here yesterday after pleading guilty to charges of rape, committing unnatural sex acts, and physical sexual assault against his two stepdaughters.

Judge Musyiri Peet announced the sentencing of prison terms ranging from 10 to 12 years along with two strokes of the cane for each charge, with the imprisonment term to run consecutively.

In addition, the 35-year-old accused was also ordered to undergo counselling during his

time behind bars, and to remain under police supervision for two years after completing his sentence.

"After considering the facts of the case, the plea for leniency, and public interest, the court views the offences committed by the accused, who is also the stepfather of the victims, as extremely serious, especially as they involve two underage victims.

"The offences were committed at different places and times, showing a pattern of continuous abuse.

"The facts also show that the accused committed these vile acts not against one, but two children under his care," said

the judge when delivering the sentence.

In his mitigation plea, the accused asked for a lighter sentence and fewer number of strokes.

He also expressed remorse for his actions and promised not to repeat the same offences, while pleading to be allowed to see his wife and children during his time in prison.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Cynthia Emmelda Jerry urged the court to impose a severe sentence, pointing out that the two victims were the man's stepdaughters, aged 15 and 16.

"These two girls became victims of his lust, and this would cause them lifelong trauma," she

said.

The man was charged with raping a 16-year-old victim on Oct 18, and committing unnatural sex acts against the same victim in December last year.

He was also charged with raping, committing unnatural sex acts, and physically sexually assaulting another victim, aged 15, between July last year and September this year.

Accordingly, the accused was charged under Section 376B of the Penal Code, read together with Section 16 of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, Section 377C of the Penal Code, and Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017.