

Two years in jail for man over smuggling of Indonesian migrants

KUCHING: A 35-year-old local man who transported four smuggled Indonesian migrants in April last year was sentenced to two-year imprisonment.

High Court Judge Wong Siong Tung convicted Bannie Mathew on his guilty plea to Section 26J of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (Atipsom) Act 2007.

The Section provides for a jail term of up to five years, a maximum fine of RM250,000, or both, upon conviction.

Bannie committed the

offence by transporting the four migrants at a junction in Kampung Senibong, Jalan Tondong in Batu Kawa, at 2.25pm on April 26 last year.

According to the facts of the case, enforcement officers from the Immigration Department, during Ops Serkap, stopped and inspected a red multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) at the location.

Bannie, who was driving the vehicle, was found transporting four Indonesian nationals: two of them did not possess valid

passes to enter Malaysia, while the other two had overstayed their permitted period of stay.

The four foreigners were subsequently arrested and charged under Sections 6(1)(c) and 15(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63.

Bannie was later charged under Atipsom.

Deputy public prosecutor Kong Siew Chuo appeared for the prosecution, while Bannie was represented by counsel Steven Beti.



The offender seen with the Immigration enforcement officers after the court proceedings.