



Kamil exits the courtroom at the end of the proceeding.

Court dismisses review of turtle egg case fines

KUCHING: The High Court here yesterday dismissed the prosecution's appeal against the adequacy of fines meted out by the lower court on a man for illegally possessing turtle eggs.

Judge Dato Faridz Gohim Abdullah ruled that the Sentencing Guidelines for Wildlife Crimes, launched by the Chief Justice of Sabah and Sarawak in 2022 and 2024, served only as a reference and are not legally binding on Sessions Court judges when determining sentences.

Sessions Court Judge Musli Ab Hamid had previously fined Kamil Suteh RM6,372 in default six months' jail for possessing 513 turtle eggs, at a rate of RM12 per egg.

Kamil was charged under Section 37(1) of the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998, punishable under Section 37(2)(a) read with Section 29(1)(c) of the same law. The appeal was filed by deputy public prosecutor Ronald Felix Hardin of the State Attorney-General's Chambers, appearing for the Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

Kamil was represented by counsel Jong Yee Ling.