

Mule account owner fined RM1,000 for possessing money linked to scam car sale

MIRI: The owner of a mule account was yesterday fined a total of RM1,000 in default two months in jail by the Magistrates' Court here for possessing money obtained through unlawful means.

Mary Sylvina Kolot, 37, of Quadruplex Bandar Baru Permyjaya here pleaded guilty before Magistrate Ashok Linggam to two charges under Section 37(1) of the Minor Offences Ordinance Sarawak 1958.

The Section, typically applied in situations where someone is found in possession of property or money that is reasonably suspected to have been obtained unlawfully, provides up to three months' imprisonment or a fine of RM500, upon conviction.

According to the facts of the case, the complainant in the case filed a police report that he had been cheated in connection with the purchase of a car.

In his report, the complainant stated that he had transferred RM1,500 to a bank account under the name of the accused on Jan 17, 2017 to acquire the car, and another RM400 the next day for delivery charges to have the car transported from Kuching to Miri. All transactions and communications were handled with an individual using the handle 'Rim While' on Facebook.

The complainant only realised he had been scammed when the car never arrived and he was no longer able to contact 'Rim While'.

In mitigation, Mary pleaded for a lenient sentence as this was her first offence.

After considering all the facts, including her guilty plea which saved the court time and resources, as well as the seriousness of the offence, its frequency, public interest, and the case particulars, the court sentenced her to a fine of RM500 in default one month in prison for each charge.

The prosecution was led by Insp Mudzilawati Abdul Rahman, while Mary was unrepresented by legal counsel.