

Kuching Court fines man RM20,000 over illegal possession of nospan

KUCHING: The Sessions Court here yesterday fined a 45-year-old man RM20,000, in default of six months' imprisonment, for the unlawful possession of 103.83 grams of the controlled drug Dextromethorphan – also known as 'nospan'.

Judge Musli Ab Hamid meted out the sentence against Mohd Aidit Alfian Abdullah after he pleaded guilty to the offence, which falls under Section 9(1) of the Poisons Act 1952 [Act 366] and is punishable under Section 32(2) of the same Act.

Upon conviction, the provision allows for a fine of up to RM100,000 or a maximum of five years' imprisonment, or both.

In delivering the sentence, Judge Musli took into account the submission by Deputy Public Prosecutor Umi Syukriah Harun, who highlighted the seriousness of the offence and its implications on public health and safety.

The offence occurred on June 12 last year, at 12.10pm, at a shop located along Jalan Pelabuhan here.

According to the case facts,

Mohd Aidit was arrested during a raid conducted by a team of police officers.

During the operation, he was questioned and voluntarily handed over a blue plastic container without a lid.

Inside the container, police found 59 transparent plastic packets, each containing 12 white pills suspected to be dextromethorphan, totalling 708 pills.

The items were seized as evidence, and Mohd Aidit was arrested under Section 30 of the Poisons Act 1952.

A chemist's report, dated July 11 last year, confirmed that the pills had a total net weight of 103.83 grams, with dextromethorphan identified as the active ingredient.

Dextromethorphan, typically found in many cough and cold medicines, is classified under the First Schedule of the Poisons Act 1952, making its possession without proper authorisation a punishable offence.

Mohd Aidit was unrepresented by legal counsel during the proceedings.