

Jail, rotan for ‘dirty grandpa’

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The offence under Section 376(3) of the Penal Code carries a jail term of between eight and 30 years, and whipping at least 10 strokes, on conviction.

KOTA KINABALU: A 71-year-old grandfather who raped and committed sexual physical harassment against his seven-year-old grandchild, was jailed a total of 29 years and received 13 strokes of the cane. Sessions Court Judge Elsie Primus meted out the sentence to the man who pleaded guilty to two charges against him on Friday. On the first count, the man was jailed 20 years plus 11 strokes of the cane for raping the minor at 7.30pm on Dec 27, 2023 at a porch of a house in Kota Marudu. The offence under Section 376(3) of the Penal Code carries a jail term of between eight and 30 years, and whipping at least 10 strokes, on conviction. On the second count, he was jailed another nine years and ordered to get two strokes of the cane for committing sexual abuse against the same victim on the minor's private part at a kitchen of the same house on the same day and time. The court ordered the man to serve the jail sentence concurrently from his conviction on Friday. While serving the jail sentence, the man was also ordered to undergo counselling and after serving the sentence, he was placed under police supervision for two years. During mitigation, the man who was not represented, asked for leniency saying that he was remorseful and regretted what he had done to his grandchild. He asked for a light sentence as he already old and sick. According to the man, his wrongdoing had affected his family also. However, Deputy Public Prosecutor Siti Hajar Mazlan urged the court to impose a heavy sentence on the grounds that it was a serious offence as the man had raped his own grandchild. Siti submitted that as a grandfather, the man should protect the victim instead of committing the heinous crimes.

In reading the impact statement from the victim, Siti said the victim was traumatised with the incident and scared that her grandfather will do the offence again. The victim also stated that she was really angry with her grandfather and did not like what he had done to her. She hoped that the court will hand down a heavy sentence on her grandfather. The court heard that the victim's mother went to his brother's house to look for her daughter. After arriving there, she knocked on the door of the house few times and after a while his father (victim's grandfather) opened the door. The mother found that his father's clothes were not in order. She then went to the kitchen and found her daughter only in underwear. The grandfather told the mother that they were drinking coffee. At that time her brother was not around. The incident came to light when the victim revealed that the grandfather had raped her. Following a police report, the man was arrested.