

Johor cook discharged, acquitted of trafficking drugs at KIA

KUCHING: The High Court here yesterday discharged and acquitted a Johor cook from a charge of trafficking drugs at Kuching International Airport (KIA) four years ago.

Judge Alexander Siew How Wai ruled that the prosecution had failed to establish that Lai Meng Sun, 43, had knowledge of the content of his luggage or had absolute possession of the said luggage.

According to the facts of the case, Lai was detained by

Customs officers on July 27, 2020 shortly after arriving via an AirAsia flight from Johor, after a scan of his luggage indicated something suspicious inside.

The suspicious content was found to be methamphetamine weighing 7,662.5 grammes.

Trial commenced on Sept 26, 2022 with a total of 13 Customs officers testifying.

The defence team, led by counsel Timothy Finlayson Joel, relied on Lai's statements to the recording officer.

The court was told that the accused did not know the contents of the luggage as it had been packed by a friend who was on the same flight, and given to Lai at the airport.

It was also established that deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of two other persons were found on clothes inside the luggage.

The case was initially prosecuted by DPP Ahmad Farid Ahmad Kamal, before being handed over to DPP Syazwan Zawawi.