



Lai (front, second left) is led away by police after sentencing.

Man jailed six months over 1,357kg cooking oil heist



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KUCHING: A 59-year-old man who abetted a general worker in stealing a total of 1,357kg of cooking oil worth RM32,453.52 from a food manufacturing factory along Jalan Bako here was sentenced by the Magistrates' Court yesterday to six months' imprisonment.

Senior assistant registrar Jessica Lee Suk Kiun convicted Lai Min Kong, 59, on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 109 of the Penal Code read together with Section 381 of the same Code.

The Section carries a jail term of up to seven years and possible

fine, upon conviction.

The offence was committed at the factory at about 6.35am on July 29, 2026.

According to the facts of the case, the complainant lodged a police report alleging that a lorry driver, later identified as Lai, had abetted a general worker in stealing 250 units of 5kg cooking oil and 107 units of 1kg cooking oil belonging to the factory.

Police arrested Lai and the general worker in front of a transportation service agency along Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim at about 11am the following day.

Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Fauzulutfi Suriani appeared for the prosecution, while Lai was unrepresented.

In separate proceedings, the 27-year-old general worker claimed

trial to 14 charges under Section 381 of the Penal Code.

He was charged with stealing cooking oil, sugar, and margarine of various quantities, with a total value of about RM463,964.32, in 14 separate incidents.

The offences were allegedly committed between March 14 and July 29 between about 6.28am and 7am at the same factory.

The court allowed the accused bail of RM3,000 without deposit with two local sureties.

He was also ordered to surrender his passport to the court and report to the police station once a month until the disposal of the case.

Deputy public prosecutor Nurul Aqila Morsalin appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was represented by counsel Ralph Lee.