

Eight jailed 18 months for running online love scam operation

KUCHING: Eight persons were each sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday for their involvement in an online love scam operation.

Magistrate Leona Dominic Mojiliu imposed the sentences on the accused, comprising five Indonesians and three Malaysians, after they pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 120B(1) of the Penal Code read together with Section 417 of

the same Code for criminal conspiracy to commit cheating.

The accused, aged 21 to 32, were Indonesian nationals Anas Wahyudi, Werly, Toga Salleh Harahap, Adi Putra S. Torong, and Rudianto, while the Malaysians were Melanie Belle Tening Juman, Clyde Eldriged Cassidy, and Alexander Lenny.

They committed the offence at a house on Jalan Song at about 11pm on Sept 1 this year.

Based on the facts of the case,

police raided the residence following information that a syndicate was operating online love scams from the premises.

The operation led to the arrest of the five Indonesian men, two local men and one local woman.

Police also seized four laptops and computer mice, four laptop chargers, and four mobile phones of various brands.

Investigations revealed that the eight accused had acted

together in carrying out online love scams by impersonating women and sending messages to several individuals to deceive them online.

Meanwhile, the five Indonesian nationals were also separately charged for immigration offences under the Immigration Act 1959/63.

Anas and Werly, who were charged under Section 6(1)(c) of the Act for staying in Malaysia without valid travel documents,

were sentenced to eight months' jail and four strokes of the cane, and four months' imprisonment and two strokes of the cane, respectively.

Toga, Rudianto and Adi Putra, who were charged under Section 15(1)(c) of the Act for overstaying in Malaysia, were sentenced to three months' jail, 10 months' jail, and three months' jail, respectively.

All eight accused were unrepresented.