

Letting illegal stay: Man fined RM5,000

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By: Cynthia D Baga

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KOTA KINABALU: A 70-year-old man who allowed an illegal immigrant to stay in a squatter house built on his land, was fined RM5,000 or one month's jail. Ag Bujang Pg Ajak pleaded guilty before Sessions Court Judge Azreena Aziz, to the charge against him on Friday. He was found permitting the paperless 31-year-old Filipina to stay in the house on the land owned by Ag Bujang at 1.45am on May 18 this year in Kg Tanjung Pagar, Sipitang.

The offence under Section 55E(2) of the Immigration Act 1959/63, carries a jail term of up to a year or a fine of between RM5,000 and RM30,000, or both, for each illegal immigrant involved. During mitigation, Ag Bujang who was not represented, asked for leniency as he had pleaded guilty to the charge against him. However, Prosecuting Officer Abdul Lamit from the Immigration Department urged the court to impose an appropriate sentence as to give a lesson not only to Ag Bujang but public at large to not simply allow illegal immigrants to be in their premises or land. The court heard a team of Immigration officers and personnel from enforcement unit had conducted a check on the house and found the illegal immigrant was staying inside the house.

Further investigation, the squatter house was built on the land belonged to Ag Bujang. The illegal immigrant had stayed at the house with his permission. Ag Bujang was the person who has responsibility and control on the house which was built on his land. He failed to take appropriate action to prevent the illegal immigrant from entering or staying in the premises.