

Deaf man jailed 16 months for fleecing trio after helping with ATM withdrawals

KUCHING: A deaf man was sentenced to a total of 16 months in prison by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday for stealing money from two senior citizens and a visually-impaired individual after helping them make automated teller machine (ATM) withdrawals.

David Ngu Chung Hieng, 41, pleaded guilty in separate proceedings before Magistrates Mason Jaro Lenya Barayan and Ling Hui Chuan to three charges framed under Section 379 of the Penal Code.

Magistrate Mason sentenced Ngu to imprisonment of seven months and five months for two of the charges, while Magistrate

Ling sentenced him to four months in jail for the remaining charge.

All three sentences were ordered to run concurrently, meaning the accused will serve seven months in prison.

Ngu committed the offences on Jan 30, March 16, and March 30 this year at ATMs located at Stutong Parade, Jalan Setia Raja, and King Centre here, respectively.

He stole RM1,500 from a visually-impaired man, RM500 from a 63-year-old man, and RM1,700 from a 76-year-old man.

Based on the facts of the case, Ngu pretended to assist the victims in making an ATM

withdrawal, after which he discreetly pocketed part of the withdrawn cash before fleeing.

He communicated his intention to 'help' the victims using hand gestures and sign language.

Following reports lodged by the victims, police combed through security camera footage and confirmed Ngu's presence at all three locations.

In addition, the three victims each identified him during police line-ups.

Further checks revealed Ngu had 10 previous criminal records.

Insp Nur Shafiq Nyaie Ilin prosecuted, while Ngu was represented by lawyers Brenda Chong and Michael Kong.



Ngu is escorted at the court by investigating officer Insp Logeswara Tharumalay @ Krishnan (left) and other police personnel.