

Driver off to jail for illegally transporting migrants in Lundu

KUCHING: A 46-year-old Indonesian man was sentenced to two-year imprisonment by the High Court here yesterday after pleading guilty to transporting eight fellow Indonesians who had been smuggled into Malaysia.

Judicial Commissioner Wong Siong Tung ordered the jail term for Risno Hamidan to take effect from the date of his arrest on April 2 this year.

Risno pleaded guilty to an offence under Section 26J of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and

Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act (Atipsom) 2007, which carries a maximum penalty of five-year imprisonment and a fine of up to RM250,000, or both, upon conviction.

According to the charge, Risno, who was driving a multi-purpose vehicle (MPV), transported five men and three women, aged between 33 and 58 who were allegedly smuggled into the country. The offence was committed at 10.55am on April 2, along the road near a lane off

Jalan Biawak in Lundu.

The court was told that an enforcement team conducting Ops Serkap inspected an MPV parked in front of the lane on the day of the incident. The authorities subsequently arrested Risno together with the eight migrants for further investigation.

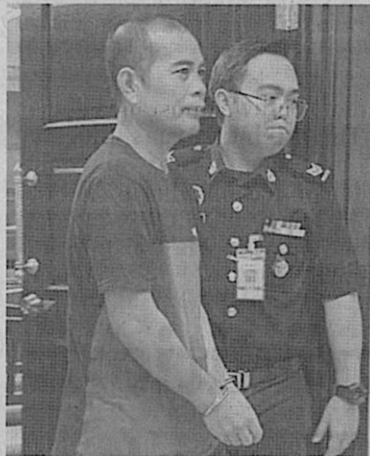
Investigations, including checks with the Malaysian Immigration Department, revealed that none of the migrants had records of a lawful entry into the country.

All eight were later charged

under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63 for entering the country without valid travel documents.

They had earlier pleaded guilty to the immigration offence and were sentenced accordingly by the court. Risno was subsequently charged and convicted for transporting smuggled migrants under Section 26J of the Atipsom 2007.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Kong Siew Chuo prosecuted the case, while Risno was unrepresented.



Risno escorted by an Immigration officer at the High Court.