

Guided by AI, court sentences man to nine months' jail for drug possession

MIRI: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday sentenced a man to nine months in prison for possessing illicit drugs, guided by a recommendation from the Artificial Intelligence (AI) system in place.

Magistrate Sandy Yvette Freddy convicted Liong Jia Lun, 32, from Jalan Palma, RPR Batu 6 here on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 12(2) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, punishable under Section 12(3) of the same Act. The Section provides for up to five years' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding RM100,000, or both, upon conviction.

"After considering several aspects, including the accused's guilty plea, facts of the case, seriousness of the offence,

and taking into account public interest and sentence recommended by the AI system, the accused is sentenced to nine months' imprisonment," said the magistrate.

Courts in Sarawak started using AI for sentencing recommendation in April 2020.

Based on the case facts, Liong was found in possession of 1.62 grammes of methamphetamine on the first floor of an apartment in Desa Bahagia, Vista Perdana here at around 9.30am on Jan 14, 2024. In mitigation, the accused pleaded for leniency as he is currently jobless.

The case was prosecuted by Insp Mudzilawati Abdul Rahman, while Liong did not have legal representation.