

First-time offender fined RM2,900 over drug possession

MIRI: The Magistrates' Court here fined a man RM2,900, in default three-month imprisonment, for possessing the dangerous drug syabu.

The sentenced was imposed by Magistrate Ashok Linggam on Monday after taking into account several factors, including the accused's guilty plea, which saved the court time and costs, his mitigation, the facts and seriousness of the offence, as well as public interest.

Winston Tingang, 24, from Long Teran Kiri, Tinjar, Baram, was charged under Section 12(2) of the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952 and sentenced under Section 12(3) of the same Act.

Upon conviction, the offence carries a fine of not up to RM100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

Based on the facts of the case, the accused, who was not an authorised person under the DDA 1952, was found in possession of 0.08 gramme of syabu (methamphetamine).

The offence was committed at about 2pm on May 23 in front of an unnumbered room along Jalan Desa Pujut, Bandar Baru Permyjaya here.

In mitigation, the accused pleaded for leniency, stating that it was his first offence.

The prosecution was conducted by Insp Mudzilawati Abdul Rahman, while Winston was not represented by counsel.