

Chinese national fined RM3,500 for prostitution

KUCHING: A 53-year-old Chinese national was fined RM3,500, in default two-month imprisonment, by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday for soliciting customers for prostitution at a reflexology centre along Jalan Batu Kawa last week.

Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan imposed the sentence on Gao Lihua, from Fujian, China, after she pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 372B of the Penal Code, which carries a penalty of up to one-year imprisonment, a fine, or both, upon conviction.

According to the charge, Gao committed the offence at a reflexology centre in Batu Kawa New Township at 4.40pm on July 21.

Based on the facts of the case, police conducting Ops Noda carried out an undercover operation at the premises to detect prostitution-related activities. A raid was subsequently conducted, during which police found the accused inside a room at the centre allegedly offering sexual services.

The accused was arrested and police seized several items believed to have been used in the activity, namely one unused condom, a packet of wet wipes, a bottle of massage oil, a towel and RM300 in cash.

The prosecution was conducted by Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohd Syazani Izzaddin, while Gao was unrepresented.