

Friends jailed, whipped for armed gang robbery in Bau

KUCHING: Two friends were each sentenced to nine-year imprisonment and three strokes of the cane by the Sessions Court here yesterday for committing armed gang robbery at a house in Bau in August this year.

Akmal Najmuddin Jeperidin, 32, and Horyezad Hosen, 24, pleaded guilty when the charge under Section 395, read together with Section 397 of the Penal Code, was read to them before Judge Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar.

The provision carries a sentence of up to 20-year imprisonment and whipping upon conviction.

Offenders armed with a deadly weapon in the commission of the offence are liable to whipping in addition to any other penalty under the Code.

The judge ordered the sentence to run from the date of their

arrest.

The offence took place at a house along Jalan Taiton in Bau, at around 2pm on Aug 9 this year.

According to facts of the case, both accused, one of whom was armed with a machete, tied up a 69-year-old homeowner, along with his wife, son and granddaughter, using adhesive tape around their wrists and mouths.

They then entered the owner's bedroom and ordered him to open his safe, but he refused.

One of them kicked the owner in the waist. Shortly after, the other located the safe key, opened the safe, and took approximately RM100,000 in cash.

They also stole two gold necklaces, a gold ring, the owner's wallet containing his identity card, several ATM cards, driving licences, motorcycle road tax,

RM800 in cash, and two mobile phones.

A resident of the house lodged a police report, leading to the arrest of Akmal on Nov 7, and Horyezad on Nov 12.

Investigations confirmed that both accused had entered and robbed the house before disposing of the stolen items.

Deputy public prosecutor Adriana Maisarah Mohd Farid urged the court to impose a deterrent sentence, citing the gravity and rampant nature of the offence, public interest, the use of a deadly weapon, the substantial unrecovered losses, and the vulnerability of the elderly victim.

The case was investigated by Insp Vimal Nathan.

Both Akmal and Horyezad were unrepresented by legal counsel.