



Kong escorted by an immigration officer outside the High Court after being sentenced.

## Two-year jail for man for smuggling of migrants

**KUCHING:** The High Court here yesterday sentenced a man to two-year imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to transporting four smuggled Indonesians in Bau in April last year.

Judge Wong Siong Tung imposed the sentence on Kong Siew Soon, 43, who was charged under Section 26J of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (ATIPSOM) Act 2007.

The offence carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine of up to RM250,000, or both, upon conviction.

According to the charge, Kong transported four smuggled Indonesian migrants in a car at 2.32pm in a parking area opposite a food outlet along Jalan Datuk Salau, Bau, on April 19 last year.

Based the facts of the case, an enforcement team conducting Ops Serkap inspected the vehicle at the location.

The inspection found the accused behind the wheel and

four male passengers said to be Indonesian nationals: identified as Marhun, 40, Suhun, 43, Lukmanul Hakim, 45, and Anis, 52.

Further checks with the Malaysian Immigration Department revealed no records of the four men's latest entry into Malaysia.

As a result, all four migrants were charged under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63 for entering and remaining in Malaysia without valid travel documents.

They each pleaded guilty to the charges and were sentence by the court.

Investigations further established that Kong had knowingly transported the smuggled migrants, constituting an offence under the ATIPSOM Act 2007.

The prosecution was conducted by Deputy Public Prosecutor Kong Siew Chuo, while the accused was represented by lawyer CM Sundram.