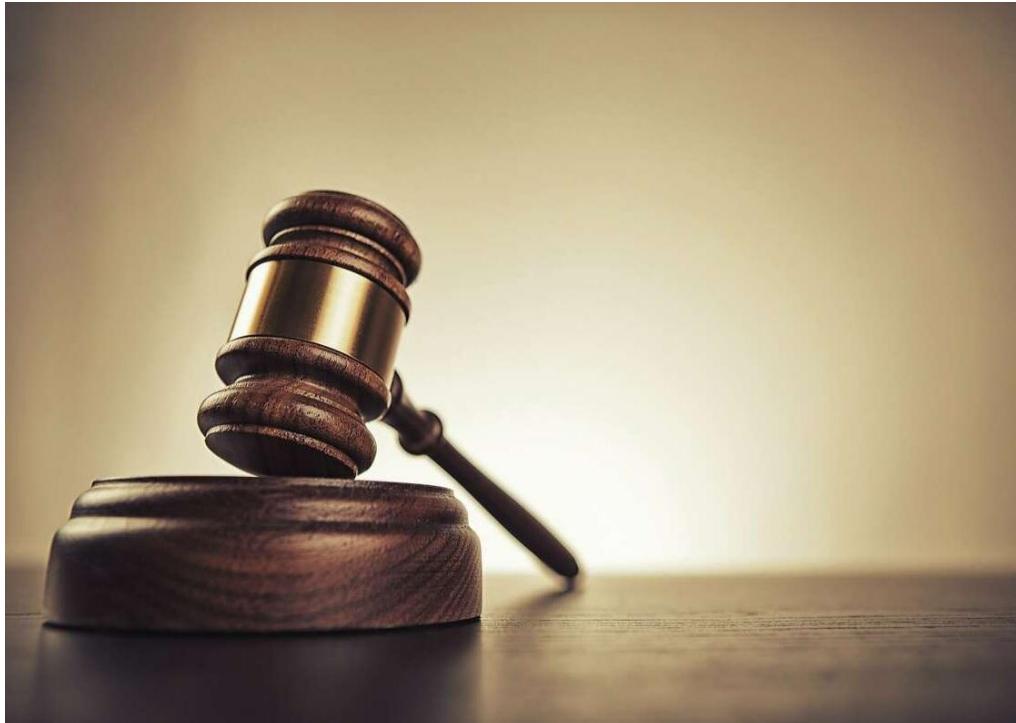


# Rape and sodomy: Man, 23, to know fate on January 9

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*The charge under Section 376(2)(e) of the Penal Code carries a jail term of between 10 years and 30 years and whipping on conviction. The man on the second count is accused of sodomising the minor from 2010 until 2017 at the same place.*

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Sessions Court will on Jan 9 next year deliver its decision on a man, who was charged with two counts of sexual offences against his underage cousin. High Court Deputy Registrar Cindy Mc Juce Balitus, who sat as a Sessions Court Judge, fixed the date for the 23-year-old man when the defence closed its case after calling its seventh witness on Wednesday. The court set Dec 9 for the defence to file its written submission, Dec 23 for the prosecution to file its written submission and Dec 30 for submission in reply by the defence, if any. On the first count, the accused allegedly raped the girl (now 15) from 2010 until 2017 in a house in a village in Kota Marudu.

The charge under Section 376(2)(e) of the Penal Code carries a jail term of between 10 years and 30 years and whipping on conviction. The man on the second count is accused of sodomising the minor from 2010 until 2017 at the same place. The offence under Section 377A of the Penal Code carries a jail term of up to 20 years and whipping on conviction. The prosecution had called nine witnesses. Deputy Public Prosecutor Mas Izzaty Lokman prosecuted while the accused was represented by counsel Datuk Bernard J. Dalinting. The court ordered the accused's bail to be extended.

In another case, two motorists were penalised for drunk-driving. Lee Chen Yen, 29, and Maurice Marcellus, 28, pleaded guilty before Magistrate Lovely Natasha Charles for committing the offence.