

Court bins influencer's appeal to set aside theft conviction

KUCHING: The High Court here yesterday dismissed an appeal filed by an influencer against her conviction and jail sentence for stealing RM668 from a beauty and spa centre where she worked.

Judge Leonard David Shim ruled that the lower court's decision to convict Margaret Sherli Johari, 25, was safe, and that the three-month jail sentence was not manifestly excessive. He ordered Margaret to begin serving her sentence from yesterday.

On June 30, 2023, Margaret

pleaded guilty in the Magistrates' Court to three counts of stealing a total of RM668 belonging to her employer.

The charges against her were framed under Section 381 of the Penal Code, which provides imprisonment for up to seven years and a fine upon conviction.

Magistrate Syarifah Fatimah Azura Wan Ali sentenced her to three months' jail for the first count, and one month in jail each for the second and third counts.

The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

Margaret committed the

offences on Nov 17, 2022 and March 14, 2023.

During yesterday's proceedings, Margaret's counsel Theresa Udam applied for a stay of execution to allow an appeal to be filed at the Court of Appeal.

Deputy public prosecutor Ng Xiang Hua objected, saying a stay of execution was not automatic and that there were no special circumstances in the case that warranted a stay.

Holding a watching brief for the beauty and spa centre yesterday was counsel Rajesh Sethi.