

CBT: Prison, caning for ex-staff of security company in Kuching

KUCHING: A former staff member of a security company, accused of misappropriating RM47,300 belonging to his employer, was sentenced by the Sessions Court here yesterday to one year and eight months in prison and one stroke of the cane.

Judge Iris Awen Jon convicted Adi Dota, 44, on a guilty plea under Section 408 of the Penal Code for criminal breach of trust (CBT). This Section provides for imprisonment between one and 14 years, along with whipping and fine, upon conviction.

The offence was committed at the company's premises along Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce here on March 18 last year.

According to the facts of the case, a senior executive of the company lodged a police report regarding the disappearance of RM47,300, in RM100 notes, from the company's vault.

The loss was only discovered at about 11am on May 24 last year, after the company conducted a recount of the cash kept inside the vault.

Internal investigations,

including a review of closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage, and interviews with the accused indicated that he had taken the money while serving as the employee entrusted with managing the company's vault.

During the proceedings yesterday, the unrepresented accused pleaded for a lenient sentence, saying that he had a family to support, including his third child, who is a person with disabilities (PwD).

He also expressed remorse for his actions and told the court that he had used the money to repay debts owed to unlicensed moneylenders.

However, Deputy Public Prosecutor Chuah Kai Sheng urged the court to impose an appropriate and deterrent sentence.

Chuah submitted that criminal breaches of trust of this nature must not be allowed to become widespread, as they had the potential to undermine public confidence, threaten social order, and disrupt the peace and security of the community.