The Borneo Post: 06 November 2026

Serial mobile phone thief jailed 11 months, fined RM5,000



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KUCHING: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday sentenced a man to a total of 11 months' imprisonment and fined him RM5,000 in default five months' jail for stealing three high-end mobile phones in separate incidents.

In proceedings before Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan, Liu Kit Yong, 21, pleaded guilty to two charges and was fined RM5,000 in default five months' imprisonment for the first charge, and six months' jail for the second.

Appearing before Magistrate Nureina Syafika Mohd Najib, Liu pleaded guilty to a third charge and was sentenced to five months' jail.

The court ordered the two jail sentences to run concurrently, meaning the accused will only serve six month behind bars.

All three charges were framed under Section 379 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to seven years' jail or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

For a second or subsequent offence, an offender may also be liable to imprisonment and a fine or whipping.

According to the facts of the cases, the first incident occurred at about 12.49pm on Oct 15, 2026 when a smartphone belonging to a 23-year-old man went missing while he was at a premises along Jalan Tun Jugah here.



Liu is escorted at the court by police.

Police investigations later uncovered dashcam footage belonging to the complainant, which clearly showed Liu stealing the device.

In the second incident at about 1pm on Oct 20, Liu pretended to be interested in buying a smartphone from a 29-year-old man in front of a house in Kampung Siburan.

The victim handed the smartphone to Liu for the purported transaction, but Liu fled with the device without making any payment, causing the victim an estimated loss of RM2,300.

In the third incident on Oct 28, Liu contacted another victim through Facebook Marketplace and WhatsApp after coming across an advertisement for the victim's smartphone.

Liu subsequently went to the victim's house near Kuching City Mall at about 12.30am to inspect the phone.

When the victim went inside the house to retrieve a SIM card ejector tool, Liu fled with the smartphone without making any payment.

The incident caused the victim a loss of RM2,900.

Deputy public prosecutors Nurul Aqila Morsalin and Muhammad Aidil Akmal Sharidan prosecuted the cases separately, while Liu was unrepresented.