

# Sexual assault on stepdaughter, 14: Rubber tapper charged

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**KOTA KINABALU:** A part-time rubber tapper was charged at the Sessions Court here Friday with committing physical sexual assault on his underage stepdaughter. The 47-year-old man pleaded not guilty before Judge Noor Hafizah Mohd Salim to lying on the 14-year-old girl's body for sexual purposes at 11pm on Nov 14, this year in a bedroom of a house in a village in Papar. The accused was charged under Section 14 (a) of the Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017 read with Section 16(1) of the same Act because he was in a relationship of trust with the child as her stepfather. Section 14(a) of the Act carries a jail term of up to 20 years and liability of a fine on conviction, while Section 16(1) of the same Act, provides for a jail term of up to five years and whipping of not less than two strokes of the cane if convicted. The court set Jan 17 for mention and ordered the accused, who was not represented, to be further remanded. Deputy Public Prosecutor Najihah Farhana Che Awang prosecuted.

Meanwhile, five people were penalised for committing drug-related offences. Severinus Binsun, Jumansyah Ahamat and Ahmad Noh pleaded guilty to taking syabu at separate locations here and in Penampang. Severinus was ordered to pay RM3,500 fine or nine months in jail, while Jumansyah and Ahmad were fined RM2,000 or eight months and four months in jail, respectively. Taking drugs under Section 15(1) of the Dangerous Drug Act provides for a fine of up to RM5,000 or up to two years' jail on conviction. Dominic Gintua and Fali Tony were jailed six months and five months respectively after the admitted to having syabu on Sept 23. The two were charged under Section 12 (2) of the Dangerous Drug Act 1952 provides for a fine of up to RM100,000 or up to five years jail or both on conviction. Inspector Kelvan Elson Maik prosecuted.