

Man fined, jailed for illegal possession of wildlife

SIBU: The Sibu High Court yesterday sentenced a 59-year-old man to seven years' jail in default 21 months' jail and fined a total of RM160,000 for illegal possession of protected wildlife.

High Court judge Datuk Christopher Chin Soo Yin set aside the three-year good behaviour bond sentence and held that the sentence imposed by Kapit Sessions Court on July 19 this year was manifestly inadequate and had failed to consider the scale and severity of the crime. However, the accused is to serve five years and nine months' jail term as the sentence run both concurrently and consecutively. The accused did not pay the fine.

Tung was ordered by Kapit Sessions Court to undergo a three-year good behaviour bond for possessing protected animals without permission on Oct 5, 2019 at about 10.30am at a coffee shop at Jalan Tan Sit Leong in Kapit.

He had pleaded guilty to the charges under the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998.

On the first count, he was sentenced to two years' jail and fined RM50,000 in default six months' jail for possessing 192 pieces of Argus Pheasant feathers (*Argusianus argus*), 152 pieces of Helmeted hornbill's feathers (*Buceros vigil*) and 148 pieces of Helmeted hornbill's casques without licence.

On the second count, he was sentenced to two years' jail and fined RM50,000 in default six months' jail for possessing 183 Sun bear's biles (*Helarctos malayanus*), 96 Porcupine's quills (*Hystriidae*), 18 Sun bear's claws, and 16 Pangolins' scales (*Manis javanica*) without licence.

For the third count, he was sentenced to one year jail and fined RM10,000 in default three months' jail for possessing 80 pieces of Tongkat ali (*Eurycoma longifolia*) and 21.8 kg of kayu Gaharu (*Aquilaria sp*) without licence.

On the fourth count, he was sentenced to two years' jail and fined RM50,000 in default six months' jail for possessing 143 Sambar deer's tendons (*Rusa unicolor*), 120 Sambar deer's internal organs, eight Bearded pig's tusks (*Sus barbatus*), six Sambar deer's antlers and one Sambar deer fang without licence.

The first, second, third and fourth counts were framed under Section 37(2)(a), Section 37(2)(b), Section 30(2) and Section 37(2)(c) of the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998 respectively.

Chin ordered the sentences for the first, second and third count to run concurrently. He also ordered the fourth sentence to run consecutively with the first, second and third sentences.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Ronald Felix Hardin appeared for the respondent, while the accused was represented by counsels Augustine Liom and Christie Philimon.