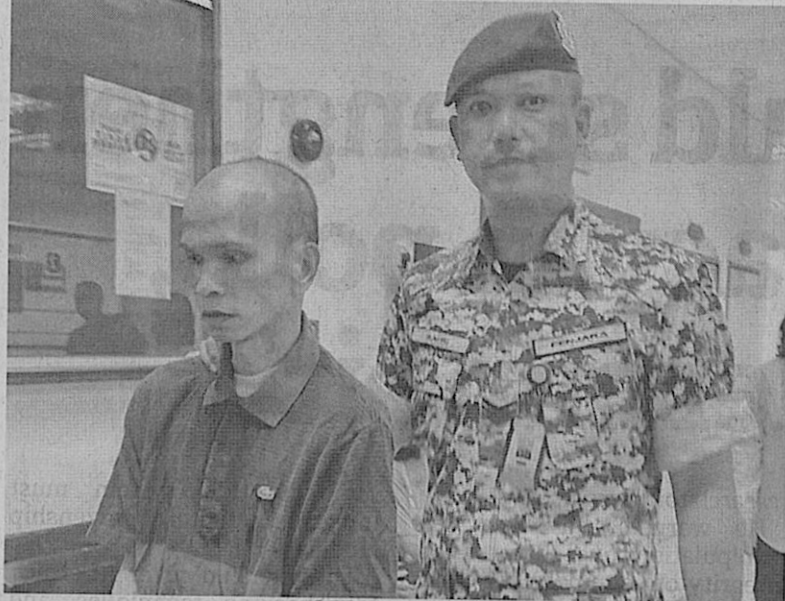




Ringgie being escorted from the courtroom. — Photo by Hafizah Abdul Hamid

Federal Court commutes death sentence of murder convict to 35 years' jail, 15 lashes

KUCHING: The Federal Court has commuted the death sentence of a man convicted of murdering his older brother with a shotgun at Kampung Sebintek in Sibu in 2017, to 35 years in prison and 15 strokes of the cane.

A three-member bench comprising Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Datuk Azizah Nawawi and Justices Datuk Rhodzariah Bujang as well as Datuk Azimah Omar unanimously reached the decision and ordered that the sentence for appellant Ringgie Ampas, now 47, take effect from the date of his arrest on May 21, 2017.

Court-appointed counsel Louis Jarau Patrick applied for the death sentence to be set aside in line with the Abolition of Mandatory Death Penalty Act 2023 (Act 846), which prescribes imprisonment of between 30 and 40 years together with caning.

On Feb 27, 2019, Ringgie was found guilty under Section 302 of the Penal Code and was sentenced to death by then High Court judge Datuk Lee Heng Cheong.

Ringgie later appealed the

sentence, but on Oct 19, 2022, the Court of Appeal upheld the conviction and death penalty.

According to the charge, he committed the offence against his brother Entili Ampas, then 44 years old, between 11am and 11.30am at their longhouse in Kampung Sebintek on May 21, 2017.

Entili died at the scene after being shot from a distance of about 100 metres with a shotgun.

Previous media reports stated that the victim had been resting on the longhouse veranda when Ringgie fired at him.

The shooting occurred after an argument in which Ringgie is said to have attempted to prevent Entili from hitting his (Ringgie's) daughter.

Ringgie then retrieved a shotgun from a room before firing the fatal shot.

After the incident, he fled on a motorcycle and disposed of the firearm in nearby woodland.

Police officers who arrived following a report found Entili dead and arrested Ringgie for investigation.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohd Amril Johari appeared for the prosecution.