

Woman jailed 12 months for insulting Islam on Facebook

KUCHING: The Sessions Court here has sentenced a woman to 12 months in prison for making a grossly offensive comment about Islam on Facebook.

Judge Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar imposed the sentence on Suhailah Kadir, 37, after she pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 233(1)(a)(i) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 for improper use of network facilities or network service.

The offence carries a maximum fine of RM500,000, or imprisonment of up to two years, or both upon conviction.

According to the charge, Suhailah made the comment with the intent to annoy the Muslim community in Sarawak at around 4am on March 24 in a Petra Jaya village here through her Facebook account.

Based on the facts of the case, the offence was detected after an assistant Islamic affairs officer from the Sarawak Islamic Religious Department (JAIS) received an email from a colleague concerning a complaint submitted through the department's Talkhidmat system on March 30.

The complaint included a screenshot of the Facebook post believed to contain provocative and insulting remarks against Islam.

Preliminary investigations identified Suhailah as the owner of the Facebook account.

Further investigations by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) confirmed that the Facebook account belonged to her. Adriana Maisarah Mohd Farid handled the prosecution while Suhaila was represented by lawyer Wilson Tan Wei Sheng.