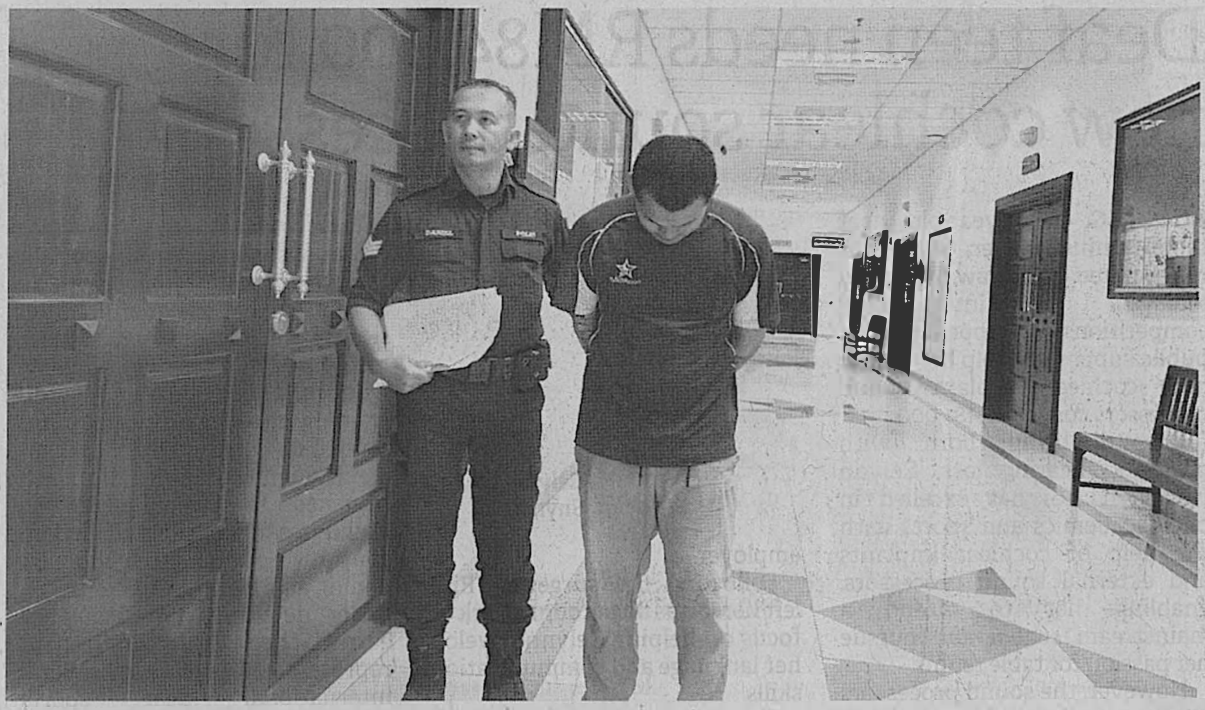
The Borneo Post: 19 November 2026



A policeman escorts the accused at the court.

Farmer gets 18 years, 9 strokes for raping underage stepdaugther



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KUCHING: The Sessions Court here yesterday sentenced a farmer to a total of 18 years' imprisonment and nine strokes of the cane for raping his teenage stepdaughter.

Judge Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar imposed the sentence on the 28-year-old after he pleaded guilty mid-trial to a charge under Section 376B of the Penal Code read together with Section 16(1) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 (Soaca).

For the offence under Section 376B, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison and six strokes of the cane, with the imprisonment term to run from his date of arrest on Nov 20, 2025.

The court also imposed an additional three years' jail, to run consecutively, and three strokes of the cane under Section 16(1) of Soaca, bringing the total sentence to 18 years' imprisonment and nine strokes.

The accused was also ordered to undergo rehabilitative counselling throughout his period of detention, and to be placed under police supervision for three years upon his release.

According to the charge, the accused had sexual intercourse with his then 15-year-old stepdaughter between January and February 2025 in a room above a shop here.

The case came to light after the victim's mother brought her to Sarawak General Hospital on Nov 17, 2025 after she complained of stomach pain.

The teenager subsequently gave birth to a baby boy at the hospital.

According to the investigation, the man had been having sexual intercourse with the victim since before the Gawai Dayak celebration in 2024 and continued doing so every month until May 2025.

During mitigation, defence counsel Arthur Liang Dawat said his client, who was 25 at the time of the offence, regretted what he had done and accepted full responsibility for his actions.

Prosecuting was deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Afiq Safly Nor Kazly.