

Jail, caning for Bekenu man charged with sexually assaulting girl

Cindy Lai

MIRI: The Sessions Court here sentenced a 23-year-old man to 10 years behind bars and two strokes of the cane for sexually assaulting a nine-year-old girl.

Judge Afidah Abdul Rahman convicted the man on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act (SOAC) 2017, and penalised under

Section 14 of the same Act.

The Section provides for a prison term of up to 20 years and caning.

Based on facts of the case, the man physically assaulted the child for sexual purposes at around 3.30am on Jan 23 in Bekenu.

In mitigation, the man requested a lighter sentence on the grounds that it was his first offence.

The court ordered the sentence

to take effect from the date of his arrest on Jan 23.

In addition, the court also ordered that he be placed under police supervision for two years after completing his prison sentence, and to undergo rehabilitation and counselling while in prison.

Deputy public prosecutor Luqman Sahrol Bahar appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was unrepresented by legal counsel.