

Man gets life sentence, caning for trafficking cannabis

SIBU: A 41-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment and 12 strokes of the cane by the High Court here yesterday for trafficking 5.081kg of cannabis.

Judge Wong Siong Tung imposed the sentence on Tiong Soon Hieng after considering the circumstances of the offence, the nature and quantity of the drugs involved, the mitigation plea, and public interest.

The judge ruled that the death penalty was not necessary and ordered the prison term to take effect from the date of the

accused's arrest on Jan 6, 2023.

Tiong was charged under Section 39B(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, punishable under Section 39B(2) of the same Act, for trafficking cannabis in front of a coffee shop along Jalan Dermaga in Bintangor at about 10.05am on Jan 6, 2023.

Deputy public prosecutor Mark Kenneth Netto, appearing on behalf of DPP Arif Mohamad Shariff of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, submitted that public interest

should take priority given the harmful effects of drugs on society, and urged the court to impose a proportionate sentence.

In mitigation, Tiong's lawyer Francis Wee said his client's wife had left him during the trial, while their children were being cared for by his mother, who had accompanied him throughout the proceedings.

Wee sought a lenient custodial sentence, taking into account the time Tiong had spent in remand since January 2023.