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## Mum and daughter freed of drug charge

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## Judge: Chemist gave inconsistent statements

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**GEORGE TOWN:** A 68-year-old South African mother and her daughter broke into tears when the High Court acquitted and discharged them of a drug-trafficking charge without calling for their defence.

The two were seen hugging each other tightly and sobbing uncontrollably when Justice Lim Chong Fong made the decision at the end of the prosecution's case yesterday.

"I am very grateful and thankful to God and my lawyers for helping us," said teary-eyed daughter

Leilanie Calitz, 41, while shaking their counsels' hands outside the courtroom.

Catherine Terblanche Millicent and her daughter Calitz were accused of trafficking 3.087kg and 2.29kg of methamphetamine respectively at the arrival hall of the Penang International Airport on Nov 24, 2014, at 8.45pm.

The offence under Section 39B(1) (a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and punishable under Section 39B(2) of the same Act carries the mandatory death penalty upon conviction.

In his judgment, Justice Lim cited that the prosecution had failed to

prove a prima facie case and there were inconsistent statements given by the chemist.

"There was a break in the chain of evidence," he said.

The two were represented by counsels K. Simon Murali, Sukhindarpal Singh and Kok Yuen Lin.

However, the mother and daughter were then handcuffed again by the Immigration Department as their visas had expired.

Simon Murali said they have notified the South African embassy and it will facilitate the visa application.

DPP Nur Liyana Mohd Jafri prosecuted.



**Walking free:** Immigration officers escorting Millicent and Calitz after they were acquitted and discharged of drug trafficking charges by a High Court.