

Friday, February 3, 2017

2 Nigerians escape the gallows

DRUG TRAFFICKING

2 Nigerians escape the gallows

JOHOR BARU: Two Nigerians escaped the gallows after they were acquitted and discharged yesterday for trafficking in methamphetamine in 2013.

High Court judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah ruled the prosecution failed to prove a prima facie case on Arinze Alex Ugenyt, 29, and Ifeanyi Kingsley Chukwuka, 28.

In his judgment, Sequerah said that after scrutinising submissions by witnesses and arguments of the prosecution, Ugenyt and Chukwuka could not be linked to the drugs, and the prosecution could not prove there was any trafficking involved.

He said there were no fingerprints found on the drugs and the prosecution had failed to call in the owner of the car where the drugs were found.

The two men were charged with trafficking 678.2g of methamphetamine in front of a hotel in Jalan Kebun Teh here at 7.15am on Dec 2, 2013.

The offence comes under Section 39B(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and could be punished under Section 39B(2) of the same act, read



Nigerians Arinze Alex Ugenyt (left) and Ifeanyi Kingsley Chukwuka leaving the High Court yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

together with Section 34 of the Penal Code. Section 39B(1)(a) carries the mandatory death sentence upon conviction.

Deputy public prosecutor Nor Iffa Zarilla Abd Rahman prosecuted.

Ugenyt was represented by counsel M. Vinodharan, while Chukwuka was represented by counsel Affuddin Ahmad Hafifi.

Fifteen witnesses were called since the trial started in 2014.