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Duped by friend, jailed for cocaine

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Faith kept me going, says former drug mule



Wan Lydiawati Abdul Majid relating her experience at the Foreign Affairs Ministry's regional, information and public diplomacy programme in Kuching on Tuesday. Pic by Azahan Rosli

UP to four years ago, Wan Lydiawati Abdul Majid always saw the good in everybody. Her faith in all humanity, however, ended when she was jailed for being a drug mule in Trinidad and Tobago.

Wan Lydiawati, 24, is finally out of prison, after four years.

Speaking at a Foreign Affairs Ministry's regional, information and public diplomacy programme on Tuesday, she told some 600 participants that what kept her going was her faith.

"I believe God put me there for a reason. And to keep me going, I never missed performing my prayers and fast throughout my sentence."

And this was despite having to share a pail used as a toilet with two other inmates, and having a bun, a little cheese and tap water for her meals.

Wan Lydiawati was a student in Kuala Lumpur, living away from her mother and five siblings in Perak, when one of her friends introduced her to a woman known as "Kak Siti".

She said Kak Siti seemed to be a caring person, asking her many questions about herself and even offering some financial assistance.

After a few weeks, Kak Siti took Wan Lydiawati to her home where she introduced the then 20-year-old to her children.

"She was like any mother, caring and loving. That was the impression I got."

Several months later, Kak Siti offered Wan Lydiawati a trip to the Caribbean Islands, which was too good to refuse.

"I thought that was the best day of my life, being able to visit a foreign country for the first time. Who would want to reject such an offer from a good friend?"

As Kak Siti told her that they would be away only for a few days, Wan Lydiawati decided not to tell her mother.

The trip, however, would last several weeks with the pair visiting Holland, Curacao and Venezuela.

In Venezuela, Kak Siti changed her plan and told Wan Lydiawati to go to Trinidad and Tobago alone. She became angry when Wan Lydiawati refused.

Another two weeks passed before Kak Siti arrived in Trinidad and Tobago. Wan Lydiawati was then told to fly to Spain and then England. In England, she was detained and deported back to Trinidad and Tobago the next day.

Upon arrival, immigration officers questioned her and detained her for five days. She was released after Kak Siti brought her flight tickets.

Kak Siti then told her she would have to pass an important package to someone when she arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

However, at the airport in Trinidad and Tobago, she was arrested when police found 2.2kg of cocaine hidden in her bag.

"My whole world crumbled. All I thought about then was my mother. I called her to tell her my story. I knew her world was shattered, too. I can still hear her voice clearly during the most precious five minutes of my life," said Wan Lydiawati.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Richard Riot said there were 889 Malaysians currently being detained for drug-related cases in foreign countries.