

Indonesian woman gets death for drug trafficking

ALOR STAR: An Indonesian woman was sentenced to death by the High Court yesterday for trafficking in 841.63g of drugs last year.

Judicial Commissioner Mohd Zaki Abdul Wahab ruled that the prosecution had proved its case against Maggie Taissya Olyvia, 27, beyond reasonable doubt.

Maggie, a university graduate from Depok, Jakarta, was found guilty of trafficking in 656.15g of heroin and 185.14g of monoacetylmorphine at the Custom, Immigration and Quarantine Complex in Bukit Kayu Hitam near here at 12.15pm on Sept 20 last year.

According to the facts, the accused was detained at the complex after a scanning machine detected dadah in her luggage.

The drugs, stacked in an envelope, were found inside a special compartment in the luggage.

Maggie, who had previously worked at a financial consultancy in Jakarta, testified that she had accepted an offer from an unidentified man to carry the bag from Cambodia into Malaysia.

She flew to Phnom Penh and met another man, known only as Daniel, at a hotel there. Daniel passed her the luggage and asked her to carry the consignment to Malaysia.

In George Town, a High Court judge ticked off a 40-year-old man, convicted of drug possession, for refusing to take up the court's offer by pleading guilty to an amended charge.

Judge Datuk Zamani Abdul Rahim, who had earlier sentenced Noor Azman Abidin to 18 years' jail and 10 strokes of the rotan for possessing 1.9kg cannabis, said it was too late for the accused to show remorse and beg for a second chance.

He said the father of three should have done so on Oct 31 when the charge was amended from drug trafficking, which carries the mandatory death sentence under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, to possession under Section 6 of the same act.

"When I amended the charge, it was out of sympathy, but my sympathy was not accepted," he said.

Earlier, Zamani ruled that the defence had failed to raise reasonable doubt in the case.

Defence counsel Hussaini Abdul Rahman, in mitigation, asked for leniency as the accused regretted his crime and had pleaded for a second chance.

He said the man, who earned RM800 at a bakery in Batu Lanchang, has an eight-month baby and two

other children still in school, and had no previous record.

Noor Azman was charged with selling the drugs to an undercover policeman at a parking lot behind a supermarket in Air Itam at 3pm on Jan 5.

Deputy public prosecutor Saliza Ismail pressed for a heavy sentence as a deterrent.