

## Restaurant worker gets jail and rotan for having ganja

GEORGE TOWN: A restaurant helper has been jailed 18 years and ordered to be given 10 strokes of the rotan by the High Court for having nearly 2kg of cannabis.



Noor Azman Abidin (pic), 40, was found guilty by Justice Zamani Abdul Rahim of the amended charge.

He was originally charged with trafficking in 1,941gm of cannabis at a car park behind a supermarket in Air Itam at 3pm on Jan 5 this year.

The court amended his charge to possession on Nov 18 after Zamani found there was insufficient evidence to proceed with the case.

Noor Azman, however, claimed trial to the amended charge.

Yesterday, Zamani convicted him, saying Noor Azman's demeanour when testifying led the court to have reservations about his innocence.

In his testimony last month, the father of three had said that he did not know the contents of the bag his younger brother had given him to be handed over to another man.

He said Mohd Azuddin had told him that the contents were wedding invitation cards for the latter's wedding.

"It is highly improbable that the accused could not tell the difference between the weight of drugs and wedding cards inside the bag," said Zamani.

"The weight of the drugs should be fairly heavier."

In mitigation, Noor Azman's counsel Hussaini Abdul Rashid said his client was a first offender and had to support a housewife and children, the youngest an eight-month-old baby.

DPP Saliza Ismail urged the court to impose a heavy sentence as it was a grave offence.

Zamani ordered Noor Azman to serve the sentence from the date of his arrest.