

Salesman, girlfriend get 31 years jail for drug possession

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GEORGE TOWN: The Penang High Court today sentenced a salesman and his China national girlfriend to 31 years in prison for drug possession.

High Court Judge Datuk Zamani Abdul Rahim also ordered Lim Chsung Meng, 40, to be caned a total of 13 times but the girlfriend Chen Hui, 37, was spared the rod under Malaysian law.

"The prosecution has proved the case beyond reasonable doubt," he said when delivering his judgment.

Both were initially jointly charged with trafficking 60.90gm of MDMA but the court reduced the charge to possession in June this year.

They were also charged and convicted of three counts of possessing 106.77gm of ketamine, 5.12gm of methamphetamine and 0.04gm of nimetazepam.

The offences were committed at a house in Lebuhraya Halia, Mount Erskine, Tanjung Tokong at 9.15pm on Oct 13, 2012.

The duo appeared calm when Zamani sentenced Lim to 18 years jail and 10 strokes of the cane and 18 years jail for Chen for MDMA offence.

For the second offence, both were ordered to serve five years in prison while the third offence saw both sentenced to five years and an additional three strokes of the cane for Lim.

Zamani ordered both to serve three years in prison for the fourth offence and ordered the prison sentences to be run concurrently beginning on the date of arrest.

During mitigation earlier, defence counsel Gooi Soon Seng said both his clients were first time offenders.

He said Lim had an aged mother to care for, that Chen was an only child while pointing out the contraband was not "hard drugs."

Deputy Public Prosecutor (DPP) Siti Fatimah Talib however countered that public interest should be prioritised over personal interest.