

08 FEBRUARY 2017

Youth escapes gallows with amended charge

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017 • **NewStraitsTimes**

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DRUG POSSESSION

Youth escapes gallows with amended charge

KUALA LUMPUR: A mother burst into tears when her 22-year-old son was spared the gallows after a drug trafficking charge against him was amended to possession by the High Court here yesterday.

Judicial Commissioner Datuk Mohamad Shariff Abu Samah sentenced Muhammad Azman Syaamil Rosli to eight years' jail and 10 strokes of the rotan.

Azman Syaamil, a fried chicken seller, was initially charged with trafficking in 235g of cannabis under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries a mandatory death sentence.

He pleaded guilty to the amended charge.

He was seen hugging his father, while other family members tried to console his mother who was in tears in the public gallery.

In sentencing the accused, Shariff

told him to appreciate his life and the people around him as he was still young and had a long way to go.

"Do not waste your youth. Many people have come here today (yesterday) to give you morale support.

"Drugs is not good for you or for the country as it can destroy society," he said in a packed courtroom.

Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Nazneen Zulkifli prosecuted while the accused was represented by Hassan Hamzah.

Azman Syaamil was stopped by a team of policemen while riding a motorcycle in front of Maybank at Jalan Wangsa Delima 11, Wangsa Maju near here, at 5pm on June 13 last year.

The raiding team found the contraband item stuffed in a plastic bag inside the accused's waist-pouch.

He was arrested and taken to Kuala Lumpur police headquarters for further action.