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Section : Home
Page : 7



Account mule fined RM1,000 in default 20-day jail over phone-purchase scam

KUCHING: A security guard from Selangor was fined a total of RM1,000 in default 20 days' jail after he pleaded guilty in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday to two counts of unlawfully possessing a total of RM2,600 in his bank account.

Sathyaraj Rajamani, 29, made the plea before Magistrate Zaiton Anuar who imposed a fine of RM500 in default 10 days in jail for each count.

Sathyaraj was charged under Section 37(1) of the Minor Offences Ordinance Sarawak 1958, which provides a jail term of up to three months and a fine of up to RM500 upon conviction.

He committed the offences at a house in Bintawa Riverfront, Jalan Daya here on May 13 and 14 this year.

Based on facts of the case, the complainant had bought two mobile phones via an online shopping application, and transferred a total of RM2,600 to Sathyaraj's bank account.

It is understood that the complainant was ordered to make several payments for tax insurance and item postage. The complainant was also ordered to make payment of RM400 for the invoice, but did not do so as he felt he had been cheated.

He then lodged a police report, which led to Sathyaraj's arrest.

It is understood that Sathyaraj had rented out his ATM card to a man for a weekly commission of RM250, but had never received any of the promised commission from the man.

Insp Merylene Lindan Andrew Mang prosecuted the case, while Sathyaraj was unrepresented by legal counsel.