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Ecstasy pills: Singapore student fined and jailed

By Suryani Dalip

PETALING JAYA, Thurs. — A Singapore student was sentenced to four months' jail and fined RM10,000 or 12 months' jail by the magistrate's court today for possession of 3,970 ecstasy pills.

Yeo Kim Ho, 21, of Geylang Road, Singapore, admitted to having in her possession ecstasy pills weighing 241.4 grammes at gate No 10 of the departure hall of Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang about 10.45am on May 16.

In passing sentence,

magistrate Tay Lee Ly said the court had taken into consideration that the case involved public interest and the amount of pills in Yeo's possession.

"The court also considered her guilty plea and her age," she said.

In mitigation Kitson Foong, who was representing Yeo, asked the court for leniency as she was still studying in Singapore.

He also asked the court not to jail Yeo as it would greatly embarrass her family, who did not know about the matter.

Foong said Yeo had a mother who was working

as a cleaning lady in Singapore, an elder sister, 30, who was semi-paralysed after a stroke last year and a younger brother, 15, who was still in high school.

He added when she was arrested on May 16, Yeo was leaving for Jakarta.

Prosecuting officer Chief Inspector A. Narainasamy pressed for a deterrent sentence, saying that Yeo had pills that were listed as dangerous drugs.

He also asked the court to consider the case as a serious offence.

He said she was lucky because she was not charged under Section 39B

of the Dangerous Drugs Act which carries a death sentence or life imprisonment.

He said in future, any case involving ecstasy pills would be prosecuted under Section 39B of the Act.

Yeo was charged on Aug 21 under section 12(2) of the Act which carries a maximum sentence of RM10,000 fine or five years' jail.

After judgment was delivered, Foong successfully applied to the court for a stay of the sentence pending appeal.

Tay also increased bail from RM3,000 to RM10,000

in one surety.

The facts stated that at 10.45am on May 16, Yeo was on her way to Jakarta, Indonesia. She was passing through the metal detector at gate No 10 of the departure hall of the international airport when the alarm went off. She was then stopped by an officer.

During inspection, the officer felt something plastered on Yeo's body.

She was then asked to go into an examination room where four pieces of plastic were found strapped onto her body, one each on her right and left sides, and two on her stomach.

