

Student with Ecstasy pills jailed 4 months

By S. Velan

Petaling Jaya, Thurs: A Singaporean student was sentenced to four months jail and fined RM 10,000 in default a year's jail by a magistrate's court after she pleaded guilty to possession of Ecstasy pills.

However, the jail term was stayed pending her appeal to the High Court. The prosecution also plans to file an appeal on the inadequacy of the sentence.

Yeo Kim Hoe, 21, from Block 1, Geylang Road 26, admitted to have in her possession 3,970 Ecstasy pills at the departure hall of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport on May 16.

According to the facts of

the case, Yeo was stopped by a customs officer at the departure hall when the metal detector was triggered off as she walked through it.

She was taken to a room where a body search was conducted and four packets containing the pills were discovered glued under her armpits and to her abdomen.

She was convicted of having in her possession 241.4gm of methylene dioxymethamphetamine under section 12(2) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

In mitigation, counsel Kitson Foong, told magistrate Tay Lee Ly that Yeo came from a broken family and recently her elder sister was partially paralysed

due to a stroke.

In pressing for a deterrent sentence, prosecuting officer Chief Inspector A. Narainasami said Ecstasy pills are now classified under the Dangerous Drugs List and the court should not treat the case leniently.

"The accused was very fortunate as she could have been charged under Section 39B which carries the mandatory death sentence," he added.

He also said a deterrent sentence should be imposed as abuse of the drug by youths is on the rise.

Tay, while passing sentence, said despite Yeo being a young offender and her troubled family background, public importance overrides her interest as

the amount involved was very large and therefore there is a need for a custodial sentence.

Later, Narainasami told the *Sun* "We are filing notice of appeal to enhance the jail sentence in view of the seriousness of the offence," he added.

Narainasami said the National Drug Council has debated the misuse of the drug as well as its threat to society.

He also said the total street value of the pills is believed to be RM 500,000 and the sentence hardly reflects a deterrence policy.

"We have a directive whereby cases involving Ecstasy are being referred to the head of the prosecution department," he said.



Yeo is taken away after being sentenced. She was allowed bail pending appeal.