

Grandmother and man escape the gallows

STAR
25/10/95

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — An elderly woman and man who were separately sentenced to death for dadah trafficking escaped the gallows today when the Court of Appeal allowed their appeals.

Court of Appeal judges Datuk Shaik Daud Ismail, Datuk Mahadev Shankar and High Court judge Datuk Abdul Malek Ahmad, allowed the appeals by 50-year-old Bedah Abdullah and Abdul Samat Singah, 57, after hearing submissions by their counsel and a Deputy Public Prosecutor.

Bedah was represented by Kitson Foong while Abdul

Samat was defended by Gulam Mustaffa Nadar Ali Khan. Deputy Public Prosecutor Stanley Augustin appeared for the Public Prosecutor in both cases.

In substituting the death penalty against Bedah, who has 14 grandchildren, to a 10-year jail for dadah possession, Shaik Daud said the court had considered the amount of dadah involved.

The court had also taken into account the manner in which the dadah was found on Bedah, he added.

Bedah was sentenced to death by the Alor Setar High Court on Dec 8, last year for trafficking in 790gm

of cannabis at a police beat base in Laka Temin, Bukit Kayu Hitam, Kedah on Sept 3, 1993.

The dadah was found strapped to her waist and in her panty liner.

In sentencing Abdul Samat, a Felda settler and a grandfather, to 15 years' jail for dadah possession, Shaik Daud told him that he was lucky the prosecution had not pressed for a conviction for dadah trafficking.

"From the records, there were elements of trafficking, but since the prosecution has conceded to possession (of dadah), the court agrees with the prosecu-

tion," Shaik Daud said.

The judge hoped that Abdul Samat (who was sobbing when sentence was passed) had "truly" repented.

"There is no point in thinking about your children and grandchildren when (mitigating) in court. You should have thought about them when you committed the offence," Shaik Daud said.

Abdul Samat was sentenced to death by the Temerloh High Court on Jan 6 for trafficking in 3.02kg of cannabis in front of the Chung Hua Emporium in Jalan Besar Jerantut on Sept 3, 1991.