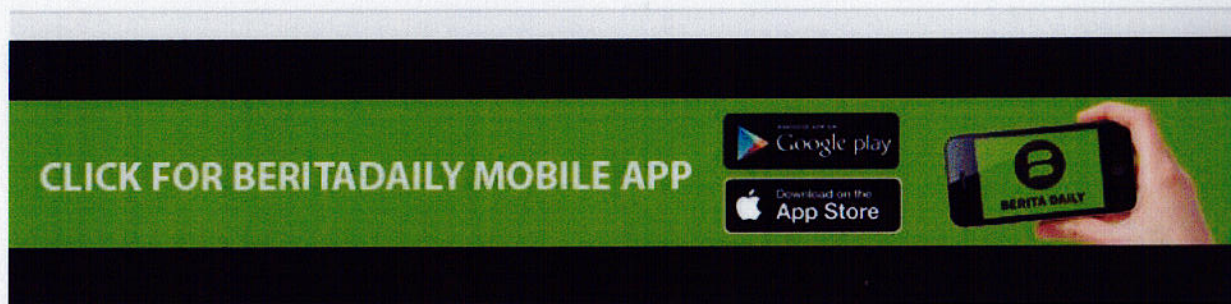


NATION



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**PA escapes gallows,
court acquits him from
drug charge**

Inconsistencies in police investigation in a drug trafficking case leads to the acquittal of the accused



Narinder Singh

KUALA LUMPUR: A personal assistant to a company director escaped the gallows when the High Court acquitted him of trafficking methamphetamine and heroine.

According to his counsels, Muniandy Vestanathan and Dinesh Muthal, Judicial Commissioner Azman Abdullah found the accused not guilty at the end of defence case today.

Accused Mageswaran Ramachandran, 32, was arrested January 6, 2016 purportedly in possession of the drugs at a house located in Jalan Kovil, Kg Chetty, Sentul Kuala Lumpur.

"The court ruled that the defence had succeeded in raising reasonable doubt in the prosecution's case in light of incomplete police investigation against my client.

"In reading out the his judgement Azman ruled out that there was no prima facie case established by the prosecution," said Muniandy.

Further to that Muniandy said that the court believed that the accused did not have exclusive control of the premise where the drugs were said to be found.

Meanwhile Dinesh added that there were inconsistencies in the investigation conducted by the police.

"The investigation conducted was not consistent and the evidences varies according to the arrest report, search list, photographs and other vital documents," said Dinesh.

Muniandy too added that the prosecution did not ask a stay on the decision.

Mageswaran was charged under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, an offence punishable with death penalty on conviction.

The prosecution was conducted by deputy public prosecutor Aznika Binti Hziyam Anas.

