

20 years and 10 strokes for raping child

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GEORGE TOWN: A former part-owner of a kindergarten was sentenced to 20 years jail and ordered to be given 10 strokes of the rotan for raping a four-year-old in 2008.

Ewe Ping Lip, 48, was found guilty for committing the offence between 8.10am and noon on a day between

January and April that year at a kindergarten in Bukit Dumar.

Ewe, who did not show any emotion when the sentence was handed down, was charged under Section 376 (2)(e) of the Penal Code for raping a child under the age of 12, which carries a penalty of up to 30 years imprisonment and whipping.

In handing down her decision, Sessions judge Sitarun Nisa Abdul

Aziz said Ewe's defence was a bare denial and that he had failed to raise any reasonable doubt in the prosecution's case.

In mitigation, defence counsel Datuk C.V. Prabhakaran urged the court to impose a light sentence, as Ewe had not been involved in any other offences during the past three years. He said Ewe, who had a wife and three children, did not have any prior convictions.

DPP Tan Guat Cheng, however, pressed for a deterrent sentence in the public interest, saying Ewe should not have taken advantage of the four-year old victim, who was studying in the kindergarten run by Ewe's wife.

"She (the victim) was traumatised and scared when she was giving her testimony for the case," she said.

"We cannot compromise on rape case, especially against a four-year-

old," she said.

Prabhakaran applied for leave to appeal against the decision. Sitarun granted a stay of execution pending appeal and granted bail at RM20,000. While Ewe was being escorted out of court by police, there was a scuffle as his family members tried to prevent press photographers and videographers from taking pictures of him. However, no one was injured.