

Domestic helper who cried wolf ends up in jail

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AN Indonesian maid was yesterday ordered to settle a BND2,500 fine after pleading guilty yesterday at the Magistrate's Court to making a false police report claiming to have been raped by her employer's driver.

Rosalia Namok, 23, failed to settle the fine yesterday, and was ordered to serve two months' imprisonment in default.

The charge, under Section 182 of the Penal Code, provides an imprisonment of up to six months, or fine up to BND4,000 or both upon conviction.

Magistrate Dewi Norlelawati binti Haji Abdul Hamid heard from DPP Nurul Fitri binti Kiprawi that the defendant lodged a police report at the Berakas Police Station on October 3, 2018, alleging that while she was hanging the laundry outside a house in Kampong Rimba, her employer's driver – who lived in the same house – forcefully dragged her into his room and raped her in September 2018.

Based on the report, police officers arrested the driver on the same day, and had him remanded overnight at the police station to complete investigations.

It was later discovered that the rape allegation was false. In fact, the defendant was in a consensual intimate relationship with the driver.

The defendant eventually admitted to the police that she had made the false report because she was afraid of getting pregnant, which would result in termination of her employment.

The defendant then conjured up a story so that her agent would transfer her to another employer.

On handing down sentence, the Magistrate found aggravating factors in the defendant's action for causing injury to the reputation of the man she had falsely accused of raping her and also wasting the authorities' resources for pursuing a non-existent case based on the defendant's false information.

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