

Soldier jailed over fake notes

He was desperate for cash after being pestered to get married

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SIBU: When his fiancée's family pestered him to marry their daughter, the desperate soldier got a little too creative and printed RM4,000 in counterfeit notes because he was short of cash.

But he was caught and sentenced to two years in jail by the Sessions Court here after he pleaded guilty.

Abdul Shahmi Syafiq Abdul Rahman of Tanjung Manis was charged under Section 489C of the Penal Code.

The offence provides for a jail term of up to 10 years.

According to the statement of the facts, at 12.36pm on Feb 16, the accused lodged a police report saying that the RM4,000 which he withdrew from his account from an ATM of a bank at Jalan Kampung Nyabor were counterfeit notes.

The intention of the accused in lodging the police report was to get a replacement from the bank for the counterfeit notes.

Police investigation revealed that the accused had made 25 pieces of

counterfeit notes of RM100 and another 30 pieces of RM50 notes using a printer.

The printing was done in an office at the army camp located in Jalan Oya here.

Abdul Shahmi, 29, an army corporal, in his mitigation yesterday said he committed the offence as he was pestered by his fiancée's family to marry her, and he was short of money for the wedding slated for March 30.

After he was arrested for the offence, he said his fiancée broke up with him.

In pleading for leniency, he said he regretted his actions and promised not to do it again.

Weeping silently, he said he was the breadwinner for his family as his parents divorced when he was still in primary school.

With his RM1,700 salary, he said he has to support his mother, 50, and two of his three sisters and the youngest one, 18, has breast cancer.

Justice Caroline Bee Majani ordered the accused to serve the sentence from the date of his arrest on Feb 16.