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Transvestite jailed for theft and credit card fraud



Flores, who committed the crimes while on a social visit pass, was jailed 20 months.

DESPITE wearing the white T-shirt and brown pants of the men's remand prison in court yesterday, Dexter Rayala Flores looked womanly.

There was no hiding the voluptuous figure and the brown-tinged shoulder-length hair.

There was also no hiding the credit-card fraud which the 28-year-old Filipino national committed here while on a social visit pass.

The transvestite, who admitted to five charges of stealing wallets and handbags and to 15 counts of using the credit and debit cards he found in them, was jailed a year and eight months yesterday. One of his convictions was for using a stolen credit card to buy a pair of diamond earrings from jewellery store Citigems for \$847.

Minutes later, he bought a white gold diamond pendant from Lee Hwa Jewellery for \$758 with the same credit card.

By the time he was nabbed, he had blown about \$7,500 on jewellery, \$850 on a cellphone,

Police checks on the footage of closed-circuit television cameras from various stores led to his arrest on June 22.

Yesterday, his lawyer told the district court that Flores, at age four, lost his father, a reporter and activist, to a right-wing death squad in the town of Passay in the Philippines.

Mr Paul said his client was abandoned by his mother and went to live with his maternal grandmother in a slum.

At age 13, the lawyer said, he was raped by three men, after which he found comfort in the company of transvestites.

He has already had a breast augmentation, and next plans to undergo the final operation on his sex organs to become a complete woman, the court heard.