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Ezam's OSA trial put off to Aug 28

PETALING JAYA, Mon. - The trial of Keadilan Youth chief Mohamad Ezam Mohd Nor, charged with disclosing classified Anti-Corruption Agency investigation reports on two leaders to reporters at a Press conference, has been postponed to August.

Sessions judge Wan Afrah Wan Ibrahim fixed three days from Aug 28 for the hearing after being told by Deputy Public Prosecutor Vong Poh Fah that the prosecution's most important witness, Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail, was involved in the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim appeal proceedings at the Court of Appeal the whole week.

He said the appeal (against a ruling that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad need not testify for the defence in Anwar's sodomy trial) had been fixed for hearing at short notice.

(The Court of Appeal today struck out Anwar's appeal without going into its merits after hearing submissions by counsel from both sides following a preliminary objection by the prosecution.)

Vong, who was assisted by Assistant Public Prosecutor Abdul Rahman Redza, said Abdul Gani was the prosecution's main witness in this case as he was the person given the power to classify documents as secret.

He also said that the defence had no objection to the application.

This was confirmed by the lead defence counsel Raja Aziz Addruse.

He was assisted by Zainul Zakaria, Ashraf Abdul Razak and Hasnal Rezua Merican.

Mohamad Ezam, 33, is charged with disclosing the ACA secret reports while being in possession of them in contravention of the Official Secrets Act.

The reports were titled: Siasatan Badan Pencegah Rasuah terhadap Y.B. Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz (ACA Investigations into International Trade and Industry Minister Y.B. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz) and Siasatan Badan Pencegah Rasuah terhadap Y.A.B. Tan Sri Abdul Rahim bin Thamby Chik, Ketua Menteri Melaka (ACA Investigations into Y.A.B. Tan Sri Abdul Rahim bin Thamby Chik, (sic) Chief Minister of Malacca)."

He is alleged to have committed the offence at Keadilan headquarters, No 101 and 201, Block A, Pusat Dagangan Phileo Damansara II, No 15, Jalan 16/11, Off Jalan Damansara about 12.45pm on Nov 6.

The offence is punishable with jail of between one and seven years.

Mohamad Ezam is free on a RM7,000 bail in one surety.

After the new hearing dates were fixed, Vong informed the court that the defence had asked the prosecution for the documents in the case which were still classified as secret.

He said the prosecution had no objection to giving copies of the documents, but for the purpose of safeguarding the documents, he suggested that each page given to the defence be specifically marked stating that they were given by the prosecution for the purpose of the case.

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