

05 JUNE 2000

Court-Ezam

EZAM'S CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS POSSESSION CASE POSTPONED

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 (Bernama) -- The case against Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Mohamad Ezam Mohamed Noor, charged with being in possession of classified documents, was today postponed to August 28.

Sessions Court judge Wan Afrah Wan Ibrahim set hearing for three days starting from August 28 after allowing DPP Vong Poh Fah's application for the postponement as the main witness in the case would not be available to testify throughout this week.

Vong named the main witness as Senior DPP Datuk Abdul Gani Patail who is empowered under the law to classify documents, related to the case, as official secrets.

Abdul Gani is currently appearing in the Court of Appeal in relation to the appeal filed by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim against the High Court's decision not to call Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a witness in Anwar's sodomy trial.

Vong, assisted by Abdul Rahman Redza, said Anwar's appeal was set to be heard this week at short notice.

Mohamad Ezam, 33, is charged with being in possession of a report, classified as official secrets, of Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) investigations and informing the media about the official secrets.

The ACA investigations were concerning Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and former Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik.

Mohamad Ezam was charged with committing the offence on Nov 6, 1999 at 12.45pm at the Keadilan headquarters in Block A of the Phileo Damansara II commercial centre here.

Charged under Section 8 (1) (i) of the Official Secrets Act 1972 (Act 88), he can be jailed not less than one year and not more than seven years, if convicted.

Mohamad Ezam is represented by Raja Aziz Addruse, Zainur Zakaria, Hasnal Rezua Merican and Asraf Abdul Razak.

On the application by the defence to obtain the documents related to the case, Vong informed the court that the prosecution could do so but on each page must be written that it came from the prosecution.

The documents were still classified as official government secrets, he said.

-- BERNAMA  
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