

Reports lodged over disruption to Friday prayers

Nst 2 0 AUG 2002

KUALA TERENGGANU, Mon. — Two police reports have been lodged over a scramble to lead the congregation during Friday prayers last week at the Losong Haji Mat Shafie mosque.

State police chief Senior Assistant Commissioner (1) Othman Talib said the first report was lodged by State Criminal Investigation deputy chief (1) Superintendent Muhammad Noor A. Muhammad at the Chabang Tiga police station on Friday against State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Hussain Awang and State Exco member Abdul Wahid Endut.

Othman said the second report was lodged by a member of the public, Jaafar Omar, at the Kuala Terengganu police station on Saturday at Ilam.

In his report, Jaafar claimed that a group of police officers had obstructed Hussain from leading the congregation.

Othman said both reports would be investigated under Section 296 of the Penal Code which carries a maximum one year imprisonment and a fine or both.

During the incident which was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Hussain proceeded to lead the congregation although it was the turn of duty imam Mohd Nor Abu Bakar.