

10/05/2004

Ex-Pas candidate to make defence in sarong lifting case

ALOR STAR, Sun. - A former Pas election candidate who allegedly lifted his sarong and exposed his genitals to a Puteri Umno member has to make his defence in court.

The High Court set aside a lower court's decision to acquit Abdul Razak Abas, saying that a prima facie case had been made against Razak.

Judge Zainal Adzam Abdul Ghani ordered the case to be sent back to a magistrate's court. He said that he would issue his judgment later.

Razak, 57, gained notoriety in the run-up to the Anak Bukit by-election in July 2002 when he was accused of lifting his sarong and exposing his genitals to Yusnita Romli.

In December 2002, magistrate Mohd Redzuan Abdullah acquitted Razak without calling for his defence, saying that the prosecution had failed to prove a reasonable case.

If convicted, he faces a jail term of up to five years, a fine or both.

Razak stood as a candidate in the 1999 general election, contesting in Gua Musang under the Pas ticket but lost to Barisan Nasional candidate Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah by 2,295 votes.

At today's hearing, Zainal also turned down the defence's application to issue a contempt of court order against Puteri Umno chief Datuk Azalina Othman Said and four others for making statements on the case while the appeal hearing was still underway.

The four are former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad; Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who was then Deputy Prime Minister; Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim who was then Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Kelantan Umno chief Datuk Mustapha Mohamad.

Zainal said the photostated copy of a newspaper report containing the one paragraph statement made by Azalina during last year's Umno general assembly, could not be accepted as evidence as it did not include the name of the publication or the publication date.

(END)