

14/02/2004

Early dates sought for hearing of habeas corpus application

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Counsel for eight people detained under the Internal Security Act who have applied for habeas corpus will meet Chief Justice Tan Sri Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim tomorrow to discuss the possibility of fixing early dates for the continued hearing of the application.

The application was heard by High Court judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Musa over the last two days but he has difficulties fixing it for continued hearing because of his schedule.

However, an early date has to be set because the detention order expires on Feb 22.

They were detained for alleged involvement in the Jemaah Islamiyah movement in 2001 and 2002.

Counsel Edmund Bon, who appeared with Edward Saw, Amer Hamzah Arshad and Abdul Rashid Ismail for the eight detainees, said the hearing should be completed before the detention ended on Feb 22.

Deputy Public Prosecutors Abdul Wahab Mohamad, Wong Ching Kiat and Muhammad Anas Mahathir appeared for the respondents - the Inspector-General of Police, the Home Minister and the Government.

Abdul Kadir said he had to go to Johor to hear a few cases next week and would be away until March 8.

"But I do not mind giving priority to this application provided the Chief Justice is agreeable," he said.

The parties then agreed to see the Chief Justice tomorrow and Abdul Kadir fixed the application for mention at 11am.

The detainees are Abdul Razak Baharudin, Mat Sah Mohd Satray, Mohd Sha Sarijan, Abdullah Mohamed Noor, Nordin Ahmad, Abdul Murad Sudin, Abdullah Minyak Silam and Shamsuddin Sulaiman.