

Rafizi remanded for three days under OSA

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PKR Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli has been remanded for three days, in relation to his exposé of a document allegedly linking 1MDB and Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera (LTAT).

"Three days," Rafizi said to reporters, as he was led away in handcuffs at the Magistrate's Court in Putrajaya today.

His lawyer R Sivarasa said that it is likely that Rafizi will be kept at the Jinjang lock-up for the duration of the remand, which was granted by Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman.

Rafizi was detained by police yesterday evening as he exited the Parliament building gates and the inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar confirmed that he is to be investigated under Section 8 of the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

Sivarasa, who is also Subang MP, called the decision "unfair" and the remand "unnecessary".

"Rafizi is ready to be charged in court and ready to return to any police headquarters to give extra statements if required," he told reporters.

The reason given for the remand that the police need to conduct further investigations is irrelevant, he added, as it can be done without detaining the PKR secretary-general.

"It is an abuse of power and acts like an unfair punishment for Rafizi," Sivarasa (photo) said.

Upon the expiration of the remand on Friday, the police will have to charge him or release him.

Alternatively, he conceded that the police could request for an extension of the remand, although he called it "unfair and wrong".

After being detained by police yesterday, Rafizi was brought to the Bukit Aman police headquarters, and then to the Jinjang lock-up.

They had also brought him to the PKR headquarters, the PKR Pandan service centre and his home in Bukit Antarabangsa, and ended up confiscating one handphone, one laptop and one desktop computer.

Exposed classified document

The Pandan lawmaker had last month exposed what he claimed is a classified document showing links between the Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera and 1MDB.

He also gave a statement on the matter to the commercial crime investigations department.

Rafizi had disclosed the alleged classified document at a press conference at the Parliament lobby, however, he did not distribute the document to the media.

Malaysiakini could not report the contents of the press conference due to constraints under the OSA.

Anyone found guilty of having unauthorised access to or disseminating classified information will be jailed for a mandatory one year or a maximum of seven years.

Responding to the disclosure, 1MDB denied it was the cause for late gratuity payments by LTAT to retired armed personnel.

It also said the document was part of the auditor-general's report on 1MDB, which was presented to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The PAC is expected to conclude its probe on 1MDB this week, after which the report will be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat.

LTAT said it has made gratuity payments to most armed forces personnel in Rafizi's list, and will take the MP to court.

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