

Reprieve for Ong, DVD charge deferred
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IPOH – DAP Tebing Tinggi assemblyman Ong Boon Piow has received a reprieve when a charge against him for possessing 23 DVDs of the State Assembly meeting under a tree on March 3 last year was deferred.

The charge under Section 6(1)(a) of the Film Censorship Act 2002 was deferred following instructions from the state prosecution chief, The Star reported.

"We were informed by deputy public prosecutor Mark Netto that the prosecution will not go ahead today with the charge although it has been registered with the magistrate's court.

"The DPP had received a call from the state prosecution chief instructing him to hold back the charge," said counsel Yee Seu Kai, who is also the Pokok Assam assemblyman, outside the magistrate's court here Tuesday.

Ong was due to be charged with possessing 23 DVDs entitled BN's Power Grab in Perak without approval from the Film Censorship Board at the Ipoh Chin Woo Hall at about 8.30pm on March 29 last year.

He faced a fine of up to RM30,000 or three years' jail.

Ong, 31, had earlier arrived at the court here at 8.35am, accompanied by former Perak Menteri Besar Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin and other state Pakatan Rakyat supporters.

Yee said the prosecution should also charge Menteri Besar Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and state exco member Dr Mah Hang Soon who had also produced and distributed some 50,000 video copies of last year's tumultuous May 7 state assembly sitting.

Ipoh Barat MP M. Kulasegaran, who also acted as Ong's counsel, said Sec 6(1)(a) of the Act was outdated due to the Internet.

"Does it mean that producing and distributing videos of one's wedding is also an offence?" Kulasegaran asked, adding that he would bring up the matter in Parliament.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok who issued a statement Tuesday has claimed that Ong's case is a selective prosecution attempt by the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) to intimidate its political opponents.

"I believe that this trumped up charge is yet another underhanded tactic by Barisan Nasional to takeover another seat in the Perak assembly as they did in 2009," Kok said.

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