

# Nik Sapeai claims trial to 'spray' charge

By IAN MCINTYRE

KOTA BARU: Businessman Datuk Nik Sapeai Nik Yusof has claimed trial to spraying a dangerous material at Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the former prime minister's visit to Kelantan last month.

"He was accused in a magistrate's court here yesterday of causing hurt to four people at around 11am on July 28 at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Pengkalan Chepa.

Nik Sapeai, 53, had allegedly sprayed a dangerous material at businessman Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali, 55, Dr Mohd Nasir Muda, 45, businessman Subari Sahidan, 48, and Dr Mahathir, 81, who had then inhaled it.

The penalty for the charge under Section 324 of the Penal Code is a jail term of up to three years or a fine or caning or any two of the three.

Magistrate Tengku Amalin A'ishah Putri Sultan Ismail Petra fixed Nov 22 for mention and set bail at RM8,500, which was posted by Nik Sapeai's son Nik Farthani.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Shahidani Abdul Aziz is prosecuting while Zainal Abidin Mustaffa and Mohd Mas Mohd Nor are the defence counsel.

Nik Sapeai arrived at the courthouse with his wife Datin Dr Suraini Yahya at around 3.50pm.



COURT APPEARANCE: Nik Sapeai and his lawyers walking to the courthouse in Kota Baru yesterday. - STARpic by C.A. ZULKIFLE