

I saw Dr M covering face, doc tells court

KOTA BARU: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's personal doctor told the magistrate's court here yesterday he saw the former prime minister putting his hands over his face after a spray attack.

Datuk Dr Mohd Nasir Muda also said Mahathir, who was supposed to give a speech from inside a four-wheel-drive vehicle, could not do so, resulting in the situation turning chaotic.

"I saw Tun's personal bodyguard pulling Tun out of the four-wheel drive vehicle and into another vehicle," he told magistrate Azman Mustapha in the trial of businessman Datuk Nik Saipia Nik Yusof, 53, charged with causing hurt by spraying a substance at Mahathir, former Pasir Mas MP Datuk Ibrahim

Ali, Mohd Nasir Muda and Suberi Sahidan at Sultan Ismail Petra Airport, Pengkalan Chepa, on July 28 last year.

Replying to Deputy Public Prosecutor Raja Rozela Raja Toran, Mohd Nasir said Mahathir was taken to a hotel here and he recovered about half an hour after that.

He said that during the incident, there was a pungent smell which could make someone have difficulty breathing, watery eyes and throat sore.

Mohd Nasir said he did not treat Mahathir because the former premier had recovered when he arrived at the hotel.

To a question by defence counsel Zainal Abidin Mustapha, he said he was not far from the four-wheel-

drive vehicle during the incident and it happened quite fast.

He also was not sure of the source of the pungent smell because it was the first time he had experienced such a situation.

Chemist Zainun Muhamad from the Terengganu Chemistry Department said traces of blood and chemicals were found on samples of clothing that are now court exhibits.

"The blood was at a lower pocket of a *baju Melayu* while on other clothing, there were chemicals like capsaicin, nonivamitte and CS gas that are normally found in pepper," she said.

She said 14 exhibits were handed over to her by police for tests.

Zainun will continue her testimony today. - Bernama

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