

'Don't release his passport'

Muhyiddin still facing multiple charges, DPP tells court

KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's application to have his passport returned to him permanently should be rejected by the Sessions Court here as the former prime minister is still facing three charges of money laundering and there is a risk of him fleeing, says the prosecution.

Deputy public prosecutor Lim Wai Keong said Muhyiddin should file an application in the Sessions Court for the temporary release of his passport, from time to time, if needed, for the purpose of travelling abroad.

"Therefore, there is no issue for the permanent release of the passport worth considering.

"The applicant's (Muhyiddin) application is unfounded, unreasonable and inconvenient to the court process.

"The charges against the applicant are very serious," he said, Bernama reported.

Lim said this in a counter affi-

davit to Muhyiddin's application for the court to change the bond bail imposed on him so that his passport, which was surrendered to the Sessions Court as a bail condition, be released unconditionally.

Regarding the charge of money laundering, Lim said that the charges can stand on their own, even though the predicate charges (charges of using a position) have been quashed by the High Court.

On Aug 15, the High Court here acquitted Muhyiddin of four charges of using his position for bribes amounting to RM232.5mil for Bersatu, related to the Jana Wibawa project, after allowing his application to drop all the charges.

Lim, in the affidavit, denied the existence of a material change of circumstances and injustice to the applicant if the surety bond conditions were maintained.

He said the conditions had been agreed upon by the applicant himself, and had been duly considered by the court.

"The applicant has never failed to appear in court, but every time (the court) fixes a date for mention, the applicant also applied for exemption from attending court, and the respondent (prosecution) has also never objected to the exemption application," he said.

According to Lim, despite the bond's additional conditions, the applicant is still able to continue his daily life and the applicant's rights are protected under the Federal Constitution.

Muhyiddin, who is Bersatu president, in his application filed on Oct 16, said he had planned a holiday with his family abroad because he wanted to spend time with them as he found this year "very stressful."

In addition, Muhyiddin intends

to undergo a heart examination at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

The court set Nov 23 to hear Muhyiddin's application.

The Pagoh MP faces two charges of receiving money from illegal activities amounting to RM195mil from Bukhary Equity Sdn Bhd, which was deposited into Bersatu's CIMB Bank account.

He is alleged to have committed the act at CIMB Bank Menara KL branch, Jalan Stesen Sentral here between Feb 25 and July 16, 2021, and Feb 8 and July 8, 2022.

Muhyiddin was also charged at the Shah Alam Sessions Court on March 13 with receiving money from illegal activities, amounting to RM5mil, and the case was transferred to the Sessions Court here for a joint trial.

On Oct 2, Muhyiddin filed an application for a discharge not amounting to acquittal for the three charges.