

Muhyiddin fails in bid for return of passport

> Court rules ex-PM needs to present better reasons than 'holiday' and 'medical check-up'

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday failed in his application to have his passport returned permanently to him.

This was after the Sessions Court Judge Azura Alwi dismissed the Pagoh MP's application.

"After examining and listening to the submissions of all parties, the court opines that the applicant (Muhyiddin) needs to present

stronger reasons other than holiday and medical check-up.

"In addition, the applicant is still facing three more charges of money laundering.

"Therefore, it is premature for the court to change the bail conditions," she said, adding Muhyiddin can still apply for a temporary release of his passport and he will not be prejudiced.

On Oct 16, the politician filed the

application on the basis that he needed the passport for a family holiday in London and a medical check-up in Singapore at the end of this year.

Muhyiddin's counsel Datuk Seri K. Kumaraendran then requested the passport to be returned as his client will start his holiday trip on Dec 15.

Since the matter was not objected to by DPP Ahmad Akram Gharib, the court then allowed for the document to be temporarily returned to Muhyiddin and ordered the passport to be returned to the court before Jan 15 next year.

Muhyiddin, who was clad in a

black suit, was present yesterday.

On Oct 2, Muhyiddin filed an application for the Sessions Court here to give him a discharge not amounting to acquittal of the three charges of money laundering, amounting to RM200 million, relating to the Jana Wibawa project.

Muhyiddin is facing two charges of receiving proceeds from unlawful activities amounting to RM195mil from Bukhary Equity, which was allegedly deposited into the Bersatu bank account.

He was also charged with receiving money from illegal activities amounting to RM5 million. - Bernama