

Muhyiddin pleads not guilty to making seditious remarks

> Charge framed under Section 4(1)(b) of Sedition Act, which provides fine not exceeding RM5,000 or imprisonment of up to three years, or both

GUA MUSANG: Former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here yesterday to a charge of making seditious remarks during the campaign for the Nenggiri state by-election in Kelantan recently.

Muhyiddin, 77, made the plea before Judge Nik Mohd Tarmizie Nik Mohd Shukri.

According to the charge, Muhyiddin, who is also Perikatan Nasional chairman, is alleged to have uttered the seditious remarks at an open area near Dewan Semai Bakti Felda Perasu between 10.30pm and 11.50pm on Aug 14.

The alleged seditious remark was over his

claim of not being invited by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to take the oath as prime minister after the 15th general election despite getting the support of 115 out of 222 MPs then, Bernama reported.

The charge was framed under Section 4(1)(b) of the Sedition Act 1948, which provides a fine not exceeding RM5,000 or imprisonment of up to three years, or both.

Muhyiddin was allowed bail of RM5,000 in one surety and the court also set Nov 4 for mention.

The prosecution was conducted by six DPPs led by Datuk Umar Saifuddin Jaafar, while

Muhyiddin was represented by five lawyers, namely Amer Hamzah Arshad, Chetan Jethwani, Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan, Mohd Nasir Abdullah and Mariana Mat Kudin.

On Aug 21, Muhyiddin handed to police documents in connection with investigations into the controversial statements, which allegedly raised 3R issues (race, religion, royalty).

Among the documents submitted to police were statutory declarations (SD) from 115 MPs purportedly backing him as prime minister after the 15th general election was held on Nov 19, 2022 and a letter from the King's private secretary at the time, Nazim Alim, confirming receipt of the SD.

Following Muhyiddin's speech at the by-election campaign event, 30 police reports were lodged against him under Section 4(1) of the Sedition Act, Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act and Section 504 of the Penal Code.



Muhyiddin waves as he leaves the Sessions Court in Gua Musang yesterday. -REUTERSPIC