

Mat Sabu criminal defamation trial set for June 11-15
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BUTTERWORTH, March 26 — PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu's criminal defamation trial for allegedly glorifying communist guerrillas will take place from June 11 to 15, the Sessions Court here decided today.

Bernama Online today reported that the dates were fixed by judge Ikmal Hishan Mohd Tajuddin in the presence of lawyer Amirul Fairuzzeen Jamaluddin, who was representing the PAS leader.

Mohamad Sabu, or Mat Sabu as he is popularly called, claimed trial to the charge in September last year.

He was alleged to have defamed policemen and soldiers who defended the Bukit Kepong police station in a 1950 attack by communists, in comments made during a PAS rally.

The maverick politician also faces an alternative charge of defaming family members of the policemen and soldiers.

He may be jailed up to two years and fined if convicted.

Human rights groups nationwide had condemned the authorities for charging Mat Sabu over his remarks, calling such a move a clear violation of human rights and free speech.

Mat Sabu denies glorifying communists, saying he never mentioned "communism" in his speech.

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