

Two MPs Among Seven Charged Over Blackout 505 Rallies
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- Two members of Parliament (MPs), Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) student Adam Adli Abd Halim, and four other student activists were charged at the Sessions Court Tuesday over the 'Blackout 505' rallies held last month.

All pleaded not guilty when the charges were read out to them before Judge Mat Ghani Abdullah.

For the main charge, Seremban MP Anthony Loke Siew Fook, 36, Pandan MP Mohd Rafizi Ramli, 36, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) secretariat staff Muhammad Adib Ishar, 24, were charged with together with another person still at large with organising a rally without meeting a condition set by Dang Wangi police chief ACP Zainuddin Ahmad which was that they must obtain Kuala Lumpur City Hall's approval for use of the venue.

They were charged with committing the offence at Padang Merbok, Jalan Parlimen here between 2 pm and 6 pm and face a fine of up to RM10,000 under Section 15(3) of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012, if convicted.

They also face an alternative charge of, as organisers, failing to furnish a a copy of DBKL's approval letter (allowing the rally at the venue) dated June 12 2013, 10 days before the event to Zainuddin, as required under Section 9(1) of the same Act.

Deputy public prosecutor Kalmizah Salleh offered bail at RM5,000 bail with one surety but Loke's lawyer Thomas Su applied for a personal bond in consideration of his client's responsibilities as Seremban MP and Chennah assemblyman (in Negeri Sembilan).

Lawyer N.Surendran, who represented Mohd Rafizi and Muhammad Adib, also applied for personal bonds for his clients on the basis that the charges were only punishable by a fine and that the rally was conducted peacefully.

Judge Mat Ghani Abdullah allowed each of the accused personal bond of RM3,000 without a deposit.

Meanwhile, Adam Adli, 25, Malaysian Students Solidarity chairman (SMM); SMM secretariat member Muhammad Safuan Anang@Talib, 24; Ekhsan Bukharee Badarul Hisham, 22, and Universiti Malaya Islamic Association president Mohamed Bukhari Mohamed Sufian, 23, pleaded not guilty to participating in a gathering at a restricted area in the compound of Masjid Ar-Rahman, Universiti Malaya, Jalan Pantai Baharu here between noon and 1.15pm on the same day.

They can be fined up to RM20,000 under Section 4(2)(b) of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012, if convicted.

Judge Mat Ghani allowed the four youths to post personal bonds of RM2,000 without deposit and fixed Sept 23 for case management.

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