

Rafizi pleads not guilty to provoking anger of Umno members
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Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli pleaded not guilty to insulting and provoking Umno members through an article published by The Edge Malaysia in the Petaling Jaya Session Court today.

Rafizi, who was represented by counsel N. Surendran, was charged with intentionally insulting Umno members and causing their wrath with the knowledge that it could disturb public peace.

He was accused of making the insulting comment in an article titled "Will Rafizi quit if Selangor is not toppled?" In the article, the PKR strategy director explained the "Kajang move" and had alleged that Selangor Umno was creating issues and campaigns harping on race and religion to create discord in the state.

Magistrate Abu Bakar Manat granted Rafizi RM2,000 bail with one surety. Earlier, deputy public prosecutor Mohd Azari Harun had suggested that bail be set at RM4,000.

The magistrate also set September 30 for mention.

Rafizi also faces three other sedition investigations, including one for disclosing a letter from a minister addressed to Bank Rakyat, in which the latter had demanded preferential treatment from the bank for carpet trader Deepak Jaikishan.

In March, Rafizi was investigated for sedition over remarks he made against right-wing groups who had threatened to protest outside churches against the Christians' use of the word "Allah".

In May, he was investigated for sedition over a book he had authored entitled "Reformasi 2.0: Fakta kes Anwar Ibrahim".

He is the fifth opposition leader charged this week in what is seen as Putrajaya's attempt at silencing its political foes.

Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad was charged with sedition over remarks he allegedly made on the Selangor sultan and the Selangor Islamic Affairs Council while in Penang yesterday, Seri Delima assemblyman R.S.N. Rayer was slapped with two sedition charges over his "Umno celaka" remark.

PKR vice-president N. Surendran was charged with sedition on August 19 over his remarks on opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy trial and is facing a second sedition charge later today.

Former Perak MB Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin, who is also from PAS, was also charged early this week with defaming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in a speech he allegedly made two years ago. – August 28, 2014.

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