

Rafizi ordered to enter defence for provoking anger of Umno members

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The Sessions Court today ordered Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli to enter his defence on a charge of insulting with intent to provoke Umno members through a statement in an article last year.

Sessions judge Azwarnida Affandi said the prosecution had established a prima facie case against Rafizi, who is also PKR secretary-general.

"You have three options in making the defence and can consult your counsel," she said in a brief ruling.

Azwarnida told Rafizi that he could opt to give evidence from the witness stand and be cross examined, give an unsworn statement from the dock or remain silent.

Lawyer Eric Paulsen, who represented Rafizi, said his client would be the only witness at the defence stage.

She fixed August 20 for the defence to begin its case.

Rafizi, 37, is accused of intentionally insulting Umno members, causing their wrath with the knowledge that it could disturb public peace through a statement in an article entitled "Will Rafizi quit if Selangor is not toppled".

The offence was allegedly committed at the office of The Edge Malaysia Communication Sdn Bhd, Menara KLK, Jalan PJU 7/6, Mutiara Damansara, at 11.40am on February 4, 2014.

The charge, under Section 504 of the Penal Code, carries a maximum imprisonment of two years or fine, or both upon conviction.

Deputy public prosecutor Azahari Harun told the court during submission on July 1 that Rafizi, then PKR strategic director, had the intention to insult and provoke Umno members when he was interviewed by The Edge Financial Daily journalist Azril Annuar.

"In this case, the accused said that Selangor Umno was planning a petrol bomb attack that prompted a report to be made against him," he said.

He said Rafizi's statement was published and its contents had aggrieved Umno members.

"Umno was insulted and the members felt slighted and angry," he said. – July 29,

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