

Mentally Unstable Man Slaps National Mosque Imam During Friday Prayers
Bernama
Sept 18, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- A man, believed to be mentally unstable, slapped Masjid Negara imam, Mohd Zuhairree Mohd Yatim, during Friday prayers, here, Friday.

The muezzin on duty, Mohamed Shukri Che Yusoh, 23, said the incident occurred at about 1.45pm when the man suddenly came from behind and slapped the imam.

"At first, the man pushed the imam who was leading the Friday prayers at the first rakaat.

"After the Al-Fatihah, the man tried to snatch the microphone before he slapped Mohd Zuhairree, causing the imam to turn his back," he told Bernama.

Mohamed Shukri said the man was believed to be wanting to lead the Friday prayers Friday.

"He was taken away by the mosque management after that and Mohd Zuhairree restarted the Friday prayers."

He said the man was taken to the Dang Wangi police station at about 2pm.

Dang Wangi police chief, ACP Zainol Samah, when contacted, said the man, a 31-year-old Indian national had claimed during police questioning that he heard voices asking him to lead the Friday prayers.

He said based on the initial investigation, police believed the man had a mental problem as he was also always talking to himself.

He added that the man was being detained and investigated under Section 323/506 of the Penal Code for voluntarily causing hurt/criminal intimidation.

Meanwhile, director-general of the Malaysia Islamic Development Department (Jakim), Datuk Othman Mustapha, in a statement, said the National Mosque had lodged a police report on the incident, after taking into consideration the issue of security.

He said Jakim regretted the incident and commended Mohd Zuhairree for being calm and continuing his task of leading the Friday prayers after that.

Othman also refuted the speculation of a fight occurring in the mosque today over the content of the Friday sermon that touched on the religious ideology of certain groups.

"Please do not spread rumours," he appealed to the public.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1172626>