

MENTION ON SEPT 30

2 KL CITY HALL STAFF IN COURT FOR GRAFT

Deputy director, enforcement officer claim trial to charges of soliciting and accepting bribes to protect prostitution den

RAJA NORAINA RAJA RAHIM
SHAH ALAM
news@nst.com.my

A KUALA Lumpur City Hall deputy director and an enforcement officer were charged with soliciting and receiving bribes to protect premises allegedly involved in prostitution yesterday.

Muhammad Irwan Abdullah,

44, and Zahari Muhammad, 34, however, pleaded not guilty when they were brought before Sessions Court judge Datuk Anita Harun yesterday morning. They were accused of soliciting a monthly cash bribe of RM200,000 as an inducement to refrain from taking enforcement action against an unlicensed entertainment outlet under the care of Chan Sai Loke near Puchong in February.



Kuala Lumpur City Hall deputy director Muhammad Irwan Abdullah (left) faces three counts of graft charges, while enforcement officer Zahari Muhammad (right) faces two counts of graft charges. PIX BY FAIZ ANUAR

They were charged under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act read together with Section 4 of the Penal Code which carries a maximum 20 years jail term and a fine of not less than five times the value of bribe or RM10,000 whichever is higher.

The duo was also charged with accepting a monthly cash bribe of RM160,000 from the 62-year-old caretaker at the same place and time.

Irwan also faced an additional charge of accepting a bribe of

RM130,000 from the same individual at the restaurant's parking lot around 9pm on June 5.

MACC prosecuting officer Mohd Aliff Shaharuzaman asked the court to impose RM50,000 bail against each of the accused.

He also asked the accused to report to the MACC office every month and surrender their passport until the disposal of the case.

Lawyer Mak Ahh Keong, who appeared for Irwan, pleaded for minimum bail by stating that his client was the sole breadwinner

of his family.

Zahari's lawyer Ahmad Faiz Munawar also pleaded for minimum bail by stating that the former needed to support his elderly mother in Pahang.

The court set RM15,000 bail for each of the accused and fixed Sept 30 for mention.

It was reported that the Kuala Lumpur MACC arrested three civil servants, including a deputy director, on suspicion of accepting bribes monthly from premises offering massage services and operating as prostitution dens in the city.