

Man fined RM6,000 for inciting violence against City Hall officer

KUALA LUMPUR: A father of five was fined RM6,000, in default five months' jail, by the magistrate's court yesterday after pleading guilty to threatening a Kuala Lumpur City Hall officer over enforcement action against a balloon vendor in late March.

In sentencing trader Mustafa Sulaiman, 57, magistrate Farah Nabihah Muhamad Dan said the accused's remarks were akin to "pouring fuel on fire".

"The court hopes this sentence will serve as a lesson to the accused. For the first charge, he is fined RM2,000 or two months' jail in default; for the second, RM4,000 or three months in default," she said.

Mustafa was charged with making a statement with the intent to incite others to commit an offence against City Hall officer Mohammad Shahli Zaini Mohd Zulkepli, 32.

The charge under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code carries a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment, a fine or both.

He was also charged with criminal intimidation for sending a WhatsApp message to the victim, threatening to cause death or injury, under Section 506 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum sentence of seven years' jail, or a fine, or both.

Both offences were committed

at the KL City Hall Enforcement Tower, Jalan Yaacob Latif, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, at 10.30am on April 7.

Mustafa's lawyer, Dzafir Firdaus Ahmad Zubairy, pleaded for a minimal fine as his client was the sole breadwinner for his wife, five children and mother-in-law.

"This is his first offence, and he has no criminal record. The statement was made in a WhatsApp group and did not amount to in-

citement," he submitted.

Deputy public prosecutor Amritpreet Kaur Randhawa pressed for a deterrent sentence, arguing that the WhatsApp screenshot contained threats, incitement and elements of intimidation.

"The accused acted with malicious intent to undermine the reputation of the mayor and to incite harm against City Hall enforcement personnel," she added. **Bernama**