

Six more JPJ officers charged

They claim trial to 40 charges of receiving bribes

By N. TRISHA
trishang@thestar.com.my

BUTTERWORTH: Another six enforcement officers from the Road Transport Department (JPJ) and the now defunct Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) have been charged in the Special Session Court here with corruption, making it 12 in two days.

Yesterday, the six Penang-based officers claimed trial to 40 counts of receiving bribes under Section 16(a)(B) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 for not taking action against certain lorry drivers who had committed offences.

Five of them, including a female accused Saidatul Hahim Sabudin, 33, are from JPJ. The others are Muhammad Rozaidi Azmi, 36; Khairul Azri Rahman, 31; Mohd Ependi Hassan, 33; and Mohamad Noor Ibrahim, 44.

The sixth accused is former SPAD officer V. Chandrasegeran, 49.

They were alleged to have received between RM850 and RM7,000 each on separate occasions at various banks in central Seberang Prai between March 2015 and July 2018.

They are charged with accepting cash as an inducement not to take action against lorry drivers who committed road offences.

Muhammad Rozaidi faces 10 charges of receiving RM7,000 between August 2017 and May 2018, while Khairul Azri was charged with eight counts of receiving RM4,350 between January 2018 and July 2018.

Mohd Ependi was charged with six counts of receiving RM850 between March 2015 and June 2016.

Saidatul faces nine charges involving RM2,250 between June 2017 and November 2017 and Mohamad Noor was charged

with six counts of receiving RM4,200 between July 2017 and December 2017.

Meanwhile, Chandrasegeran faces one charge involving RM1,200 in September 2017.

All six pleaded not guilty before Judge Nizam Zakaria, who granted bail at RM10,000 each for all five JPJ officers and RM8,000 for the former SPAD officer, with one surety each.

She also ordered their passports to be impounded.

All five JPJ officers were represented by Datuk Naran Singh.

Former SPAD officer Chandrasegeran was unrepresented and told the court that he had been suspended from SPAD.

He also claimed that the date of the offence was inaccurate and did not want to enter a plea.

Judge Nizam explained that he needed to enter a plea and could argue on the facts of case during trial once he was represented by a lawyer.

Chandrasegeran then claimed trial and was offered a bail of RM8,000 with one surety.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohamad Azlan Basri asked for a higher bail of between RM15,000 and RM20,000 to be imposed during mitigation.

Judge Nizam then set Sept 12 for case mention.

On Wednesday, six enforcement officers – five from JPJ and another one from SPAD – were charged in the same court for similar offences.

Another six enforcement officers will be charged today for similar offences, making it 18 personnel to be charged this week.

MACC officers picked up 79 people – 68 JPJ officers and personnel, two former SPAD officers and nine civilians – since April 16 under *Ops Sarat* in its crackdown on corruption.