

Man who ran riot over longhouse paint job fined RM6,500



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SIBU: A 50-year-old man was fined a total of RM6,500 in default five months in jail by the Magistrates Court here yesterday after he pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition, and two other offences, during an amok incident at a longhouse in Kanowit.

For the first charge under Section 8 of the Arms Act 1960 for unlicensed possession of a homemade shotgun and one round of ammunition, Magistrate Oon Kork Chern fined Richard Epak, 50, RM2,000 in default one month in prison.

For the second charge under Section 39(b) of the Arms Act

1960, punishable under Section 43 of the same Act, the accused was fined RM1,500 in default one month in jail for discharging a shot towards the roof of a longhouse.

For the third charge under Section 425 of the Penal Code, punishable under Section 426 of the same Code, for committing mischief by damaging windows and a door frame at the same longhouse using a machete, the court fined Richard RM3,000 in default three months' imprisonment.

He failed to pay the fines.

All the offences were committed at Rumah Rety in Nanga Ngungun at about 4pm on Dec 13 last year.

Based on the facts of the case, the female complainant was painting the window frame of Richard's unit when the accused—with a machete in hand—suddenly scolded her.

Fearing for her safety, the complainant fled in fear to another longhouse, and reported hearing an 'explosion'.

She later returned and was informed by fellow residents that the accused had run amok and broken several windows.

Acting on a report lodged, police went to the longhouse and arrested Richard, who admitted to discharging a shot that hit the roof of longhouse.

He also admitted to damaging windows and a door frame at the longhouse. Police investigations found that Richard committed the acts as he was dissatisfied with the colour of the paint chosen for the door frame.

He also claimed that the longhouse chieftain did not get his consent to paint his unit.

ASP Siti Mariyah Dahari prosecuted the case, while the accused was not represented by a legal counsel.