

Psych evaluation for man charged with touching girl's privates

KUCHING: An unemployed man charged with committing physical sexual assault against a seven-year-old girl was ordered by the Sessions Court here yesterday to undergo psychiatric evaluation at Sentosa Hospital.

Judge Musli Ab Hamid made the order following an application

by lawyers representing the 25-year-old accused.

"Based on the facts submitted by the lawyers for the accused, I am not satisfied that the accused is capable of defending himself.

"Pursuant to Section 342(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code, I

order that the accused be sent to and detained at Sentosa Hospital for psychiatric observation for a period of one month commencing from today," said the judge.

The court fixed May 26 for further mention and submission of the psychiatric report.

According to the charge, the

accused allegedly touched the victim's private parts near a roadside area at Jalan Batu Kawa Lama Moyan at about 12.20am on April 19 this year.

The charge was framed under Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, which provides for

imprisonment of up to 20 years and whipping, upon conviction.

Deputy public prosecutor Asmawi Nur Haqim Mokhtar appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was represented by lawyers Tim Low Yew How, Gabriel Koo, and Chiam Xin Yuen.