

E-hailing driver's murder: Filipino ordered to enter defence

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Arsit was accused of murdering Mohammad Hanafiee Jaffar, 27, inside a Proton Saga FLX car between 4am and 5am on May 25, 2019 at the roadside of Jalan Marabahai in Tuaran.

KOTA KINABALU: A paperless Filipino who was charged with the murder of an e-hailing car driver in Tuaran five years ago, was ordered to enter his defence. High Court Judge Leonard David Shim made the order against Arsit Indanan, 26, by ruling that the prosecution had established a prima facie case and ordered him to enter his defence. The court fixed Feb 1 for Arsit's defence. Arsit was accused of murdering Mohammad Hanafiee Jaffar, 27, inside a Proton Saga FLX car between 4am and 5am on May 25, 2019 at the roadside of Jalan Marabahai in Tuaran. He had on Sept 23, 2021 claimed trial to the charge under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which carries the death penalty, on conviction. The prosecution had called 23 witnesses during the prosecution's stage. Deputy Public Prosecutor Rozana Abdul Hadi prosecuted while counsel Mohd Ari Nadzrah Abd Rahman represented Arsit. Arsit was ordered to be remanded further as the charge against him has no provision for bail.

Meanwhile, a 59-year-old contractor was jailed six years and ordered given two lashes of the cane for the sexual assault of a seven-year-old girl three years ago. Sessions Court Judge Elsie Primus meted out the sentence to Choi Kok Kheong, Thursday. Choi was found guilty and convicted of committing the offence at a Penampang village on June 27, 2021. The offence, under Section 14 (a) of the Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017, carries a jail term of up to 20 years, and whipping, on conviction. Elsie ordered Choi to serve the sentence from Thursday and also ordered him to be placed under police supervision for three years after serving the sentence. However, Choi, who was represented by counsel Ronny Cham, managed to obtain a stay of execution of the sentence pending his appeal to the High Court. Five prosecution witnesses and three defence witnesses were called to testify during the trial.

Meanwhile, a 44-year-old man was charged in the Magistrate's Court with threatening his younger brother. Unemployed Admain Makling pleaded not guilty before Magistrate Stephanie Sherron Abbie to criminally intimidating one Abdugafar Makling, 43, at 11am on Dec 30, 2023, in a house at Kg Warisan, Kalansanan, Inanam. The charge is framed under Section 506 of the Penal Code. The court fixed Feb 14 for pre-trial case management and released the accused on a bail of RM1,000 in two sureties. Inspector Suzie S.K. prosecuted.