

# Bodyguard charged with murder of man at Sg Tapang apartment

**KUCHING:** A bodyguard was charged in the Magistrates' Court here yesterday with the murder of a 22-year-old man during an unlawful assembly at a Jalan Sungai Tapang apartment last December.

Lu Chieng Kiong, 36, from Sibu nodded after the charge was read to him before Senior Assistant Registrar Abdurrahman Abrar Jarni.

No plea was recorded as murder falls under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

The court fixed this Oct 31 for further mention of the case, and Lu was denied bail.

He was charged under Section 302 of the Penal Code, read together with Section

149 of the same Code, which provides for the death penalty or imprisonment of between 30 and 40 years, as well as caning upon conviction.

According to the charge, Lu, together with 11 others still at large, was allegedly part of an unlawful assembly with the common object of causing the death of Francis Chang Ze.

The alleged offence took place at around 4.30am at an apartment on Jalan Sungai Tapang here on Dec 1 last year.

At 4.40am, police received a call regarding an altercation at the apartment complex.

Upon arrival, officers found the victim fatally slashed inside one of the rooms in his unit.

Separately in the same courtroom, Lu was also charged with allegedly dishonestly inducing RM50,000 from a 39-year-old man and committing criminal intimidation against the same victim.

He claimed trial to both charges under Section 383 of the Penal Code read together with Section 34 of the same Code, and Section 506 of the Penal Code.

He allegedly committed the offences on Sept 16.

Deputy public prosecutor Jean Siow Chung Hwei handled the prosecution, while Lu was represented by counsels Datuk Shankar Ram Asnani and Lim Lian Kee.