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Pickup truck driver fined RM8,000 for careless driving that led to fatal crash

SIBU: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday fined a man RM8,000 in default eight months' jail for driving without due care and attention and causing an accident that claimed the life of a car driver.

Magistrate Romario Jonoi imposed the fine after Lau Yok Soon pleaded guilty to the charge under Section 43(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987.

Lau, who was represented by lawyer Michelle Ling, paid the fine.

According to the facts of the case, the accident occurred at about 8.30am on June 16, 2026 along the Sibu-Durin Road near the Pulau Nudong roundabout.

Lau was driving a pickup truck from Sarikei towards Sibu Jaya when his vehicle went out of control in rainy weather on a wet and uneven road, veered into the opposite lane, and collided with a car driven by a 35-year-old man travelling from Sibu towards Kanowit with a passenger.

A metal box carried in the pickup truck also fell off and struck the front of the car.

The car driver, identified as Ricky James, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigations found that Lau had driven without due care and attention to other road users.

In the same court, Peter Angie, 39, from Rantau Panjang here was fined RM6,000 in default six months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to a similar charge.

He was charged with driving a pickup truck without due care and attention along Jalan Rantau Panjang at about 7pm on Sept 15, 2026.

The court heard that two vehicles were travelling towards Sibu town centre when Peter's pickup, travelling in the opposite direction, entered their lane.

The first vehicle swerved to avoid the pickup but sideswiped it before skidding into a roadside drain.

The second vehicle, which was following behind, then collided head-on with the pickup and overturned into a drain on the opposite side of the road.

Investigations found that the accused had driven without due care and attention to other road users, an offence under Section 43(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987.

The unrepresented Peter failed to pay the fine.

Both cases were prosecuted by deputy public prosecutor Mohd Syazani Izzaddin Abdul Muadzam.