

Immigration officer claims trial to soliciting, accepting bribe

BINTULU: An Immigration officer pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here on Wednesday to charges of soliciting and accepting a bribe three years ago.

The 44-year-old entered the plea after the charges were read before Judge Steve Ritikos.

According to the charges, the officer, who was serving in the Enforcement Division of the Immigration Department here, allegedly solicited a bribe of RM5,000 from a Bintulu Port staff member.

The bribe was allegedly intended to close a case involving the staff member's father, who was under investigation by the Immigration Department for harbouring illegal immigrants, an offence under Section 55(E) of the Immigration Act 1959/1963.

The accused was the assistant investigating officer for the case.

The alleged offence took place at a bank here at 10.15pm on Feb 23, 2022.

The charge was framed under Section 16(a)(B) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, punishable under Section 24(1) of the same Act,

The Section provides for imprisonment of up to 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

The court granted the accused bail of RM3,000 with one surety and set June 25 for further mention.

The prosecution was led by deputy public prosecutor Yong Ann Nee, while the accused was not represented by legal counsel.