



(From second left) Shankar, Tan, Lim, Chin and Mohamad Roslan are seen at the court lobby after the proceedings.

## Immigration officer, businesswoman discharged, acquitted of falsifying passports

**KUCHING:** The High Court here yesterday discharged and acquitted an Immigration officer and a businesswoman accused of falsifying Malaysian passports seven years ago.

Judge Datuk Azhahari Kamal Ramli made the decision after finding that the prosecution had failed to prove a prima facie case against Mohamad Roslan Marjo, 52, and Tan Chew Yeang, 48, at the end of the prosecution's case.

The court ruled that prosecution had failed to prove the element of common intention between Mohamad Roslan and Tan, as they did not know each

other. There was also no evidence of a pre-arranged plan between Mohamad Roslan and Tan for the persons named in the charges to obtain the passports.

Mohamad Roslan faced 12 charges, while Tan had two charges, all framed under Section 26E of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007.

The Section provides for a jail term of between seven and 15 years, or a fine not exceeding RM500,000, or both.

Mohamad Roslan was accused of falsifying 12 Malaysian passports at the Immigration

office in UTC Sarawak here between Aug 22, 2017 and Nov 19, 2017, while Tan was accused of falsifying two Malaysian passports at the same place on Oct 2, 2017.

The trial had 14 witnesses being called to testify for the prosecution.

Mohamad Roslan was represented by lawyer Shankar Ram Asnani, while Tan was represented by lawyers Roger Chin and Lim Heng Choo.

The case was prosecuted by deputy public prosecutors Kong Siew Chuo and Nur Suriati Mohd.