

# Nov 4 fixed for case mention of deaf-mute accused of murder

**Philip Wong**

**SIBU:** The Sibu Magistrates' Court yesterday fixed Nov 4 for further mention of a case involving a 48-year-old deaf and mute woman accused of causing injury to and later, allegedly murdering, her biological mother in Bukit Lan.

Magistrate Oon Kork Chern fixed the date after prosecuting officer Insp Ting Yew Kang informed the court that the prosecution was still awaiting the chemist's and forensic reports.

The psychiatric report on the accused, however, had been received.

The court also directed the prosecution to submit a letter requesting a sign-language interpreter should one be required at future proceedings.

No plea was recorded from the woman, and she was further placed on remand at Sibu Central Prison pending the next mention.

On July 3, the woman had pleaded guilty to the charge of intentionally causing injury, but the court did not accept the plea.

The court subsequently



The woman being escorted out of the courtroom after the proceedings.

ordered that she be sent to Sentosa Hospital in Kuching for psychiatric assessment to determine whether or not she was of sound mind and fit to enter a plea.

Previously, the woman's younger brother, who was also detained to assist in investigations into the murder case, was called as a prosecution witness.

According to the charge sheet, the accused faces two charges arising from separate incidents involving her 77-year-old mother.

On the first charge, she is alleged to have intentionally caused injury to her mother by hitting her at an unnumbered house in Lower Bukit Lan at about 9pm on May 12.

The charge was framed under Section 323 read together with Section 326A of the Penal Code, which provides for a maximum jail term of one year, a fine of up to RM2,000, or both upon conviction.

On the second charge, the woman is accused of having murdered her mother by stabbing her with a pair of scissors at the same house at 1.50pm on June 25.

The murder charge was framed under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which carries the death penalty, or imprisonment of between 30 and 40 years upon conviction.

If the death penalty is not imposed, the offender is also liable to at least 12 strokes of whipping.