

Fake IC: National Registration Department officer freed of charge

Published on: Wednesday, September 28, 2022

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Text Size:



Safiah with her counsel Azhier and her husband after the proceedings.

KOTA KINABALU: A 53-year-old assistant registrar of the National Registration Department (NRD) was freed of a charge of making a fake identification card. Sessions Court Judge Abu Bakar Manat discharged and acquitted Safiah Alijang, without her defence being called on Tuesday. The court ruled that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case against Safiah and therefore she was discharged and acquitted.

Safiah was accused of making the fake document bearing the serial number 991207-12-5135 under the name Muhamad Daniel Hafiez bin Arif @ Jali at 3.05pm on May 22, 2013 at the NRD Pitas branch. The offence, under Section 463/465 of the Penal Code, carries a jail term of up to two years or a fine, or both, on conviction. Safiah who is temporary suspended from her job due to her case, said she was relief when she heard about the decision and felt that the 'burden' on her chest had gone. The prosecution had called 18 witnesses in the trial.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Nartiah F.M Sambatan from Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission conducted the prosecution while counsel Azhier Farhan Arisin defended Safiah. The court said all the exhibits to be returned to the prosecution within 14 days from Tuesday if no appeal have been filed against the decision. The bail sum also to be returned to the sureties.