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Man who damaged prawn fishing premises, extorted owner and staff jailed 34 months

KUCHING: A 45-year-old man was sentenced to a total of 34 months' jail after pleading guilty in separate Magistrates' Court to one charge of mischief and two charges of extortion.

Before Magistrate Nureina Syafika Mohd Najib, Osman Omar was sentenced to five months' jail and fined RM3,500 in default five months' imprisonment for attempting to extort a 19-year-old female counter worker at a prawn fishing premises along Jalan Matang.

In another court, Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan sentenced him to 14 months' imprisonment for mischief by damaging property belonging to the prawn fishing premises, and 15 months' jail for attempting to extort money from the premises owner by demanding payment for protection.

Magistrate Ling ordered the two prison sentences to run concurrently from yesterday.

According to the facts of the case, Osman had contacted the 35-year-old premises owner by telephone on the morning of Nov 14.

During the call, he expressed his intention to 'look after the shop' and informed the owner that he would visit the premises later that afternoon.

At about 6.32pm on the same day, while at the prawn fishing premises, Osman asked the counter worker to release prawns into the fishing pond.

However, the woman explained that prawns were stocked according to a schedule set by the management.

Dissatisfied, he became aggressive, raised his voice, and repeatedly hurled vulgarities at her.

During the incident, Osman threw his smartphone into the pond before demanding that the worker pay him RM10,000 in compensation.

He also threw other objects, kicked chairs, and damaged a table and receipt printer belonging to the premises, causing losses estimated at RM150.

A police report was subsequently lodged, leading to his arrest.

Meanwhile, Osman claimed trial before Magistrate Nureina Syafika to a charge under Section 507B of the Penal Code, for harassing the counter worker by using abusive language and throwing objects, causing her to fear for her safety.

The court denied him bail and fixed Dec 17, 2026 for case management.

Osman also pleaded not guilty at the Sessions Court to a charge under Section 39C of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 for abusing drugs, with case management also fixed for Dec 17.

It was understood that Osman had previously been convicted in two cases involving drug abuse under Section 15(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, and was fined a total of RM4,400 in default 14 months' jail and ordered to undergo supervision for two years for each case.

The cases were handled separately by deputy public prosecutors Muhammad Afiq Safly Nor Kazly and Muhammad Aidil Akmal Sharidan, as well as prosecuting officer Insp Siti Radhiah Abdul Rahman.