

4 IMMIGRATION MEN CHARGED WITH GRAFT

They were charged separately in three states over a slew of corruption offences

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A NUMBER of Immigration Department officers were hauled to separate courts nationwide yesterday for a slew of corruption offences, including accepting bribes.

In **Kota Baru**, Kelantan, two Immigration officers based at the Johor Immigration Department were charged at the Kota Baru Sessions Court with 33 counts of bribery involving RM154,340 between April 2018 and November last year.

The accused, Mohamad Hariss Rosli, 27, was alleged to have accepted RM152,940 in bribes from 2018 to last year.

He pleaded guilty to 18 out of the 31 charges and pleaded not guilty to the subsequent charges (from 19 to 31), for which he claimed trial.

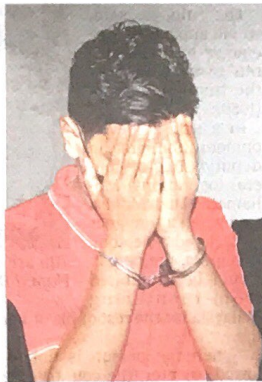
The second accused, Fasmawi Ab Wahab, 24, pleaded guilty to two counts of graft amounting to RM1,400.

All charges were read out before judge Zaman Mohd Noor.

The accused were charged under Section 165 of the Penal Code which carries a jail term of up to



Mohamad Hariss Rosli



Fasmawi Ab Wahab



Akashah Roslan



Baliyan Mohd Bhanudin

two years or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

Deputy public prosecutor Norhamizah Ghazali prosecuted the case. The accused were not represented.

The court set Dec 22 for sentencing.

In **George Town**, Penang, an Immigration officer, who was detained recently for causing a serious breach at the country's borders, pleaded guilty at the Sessions Court to three counts of receiving cash totalling RM3,060 from a Mohd Azril Azizan.

Judge Norhayati Mohamad Yunus sentenced Akashah Roslan, 38, to 30 days' jail and RM4,000 fine for each of the offences.

"The court finds the accused guilty and he is convicted of the offence. As such, this court sentences the accused to 30 days' jail and RM4,000 fine for each of-

fence, in default four months' jail. The sentence will run concurrently," she said.

Altogether, Akashah would serve 30 days' jail beginning yesterday and a RM12,000 fine.

The three charges fall under Section 165 of the Penal Code, which makes it an offence for a public servant to obtain a valuable thing, such as land or money, without adequate or any consideration, from somebody involved in a proceeding or business related to his (public servant's) official function.

Akashah had stamped the Immigration Department chop on passports of foreign workers without their presence to enable them to remain in the country.

He had worked with a middleman, who provided him with the passports of the foreigners at several mamak restaurants around

Johor, before returning them back to the middleman at the same restaurants.

The middleman would then make payments into Akashah's CIMB accounts online after each task.

Both the middleman and Azril met while working in the Foreign Workers Division in 2012. However, Akashah only started committing the offences in 2018.

In **Shah Alam**, Selangor, an Immigration officer was charged with four counts of receiving RM7,120 in bribes from two individuals since September last year.

Baliyan Mohd Bhanudin, however, pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him before Sessions Court judge Rozilah Salleh yesterday.

The 32-year-old officer also claimed trial to four alternative charges of misusing entry and ex-

it stamps at Malaysian borders.

Baliyan, who worked at the Sultan Iskandar Immigration Department office in Johor Baru, was accused of receiving RM7,120 from two individuals aged 29 and 44 respectively.

The offence falls under Section 165 of the Penal Code which carries two years' jail or fine or both upon conviction.

For the alternative charges, he was accused of receiving bribes of the same amount from the same persons.

The father of three was charged under Section 25(2) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009.

The court set RM50,000 bail for all charges and ordered the accused to surrender his passport.

The court also fixed Jan 18 for mention. **Additional reporting by Sharifah Mahsinah Abdullah**