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Court orders trio to enter defence for faking death of fugitive



KUALA LUMPUR: The Sessions Court has ordered three men charged with abetment and falsifying documents on the "death" of fugitive Michael Soosai (pic) to enter their defence.

Judge Mohamad Mohamad Sekeri Mamat ruled that the prosecution had proved a prima facie case against Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) attendant K. Subramaniam, 33, for falsifying documents and businessmen J. Kumaresan, 28, and V. Sanjeev Kumar, 34, for abetting Subramaniam.

The judge said he found prosecu-

tion witness S. Pillaipillamah's testimony that Soosai was still alive to be "extremely important."

Pillaipillamah is the wife of deceased lorry driver N. Subramaniam, who was believed to have been kidnapped and murdered by Soosai.

The woman had testified earlier that a body which had been cremated was not Soosai's.

Soosai was on Bukit Aman's wanted list in connection with 16 cheque forgery cases amounting to about RM1mil in 2001.

However, the charges against him were dropped after his family produced his death certificate, which stated that he had died of a heart attack in 2003.

A year later, Tamil Nadu police in India alerted their Malaysian counterparts about Soosai's alleged involvement in the kidnap and murder of N. Subramaniam, who was from Puchong.

Reports claimed that Soosai had sponsored the airfare for the deceased lorry driver and Pillaipillamah to go to India. However, upon arrival at Chennai International Airport, the couple were abducted and N. Subramaniam's body was recovered on Dec 12, 2004.

Speculation was rife that N. Subramaniam could have been killed

because he had objected to Soosai's daughter marrying his son.

Yesterday, the court also noted amendments had been made to HKL's death registry, with the name of a deceased listed as an "unknown Mohan," a 30-year-old final-stage HIV patient, to that of "Michael Soosai."

It also considered the testimony of HKL Medical Forensic Department assistant Azhar Junus that a burial permit for an "unknown Mohan" had been amended to the name of Michael Soosai.

K. Subramaniam had claimed trial to charges of falsifying the hospital's mortuary records dated Sept 12, 2003, Soosai's death certificate and burial permit, with another person still at large, and cheating Dr Wan Mohamad Zamri Wan Nawawi, 47, to induce him to issue the death certificate for Soosai.

Kumaresan had on May 11, 2005, claimed trial to three counts of abetting K. Subramaniam, and another person still at large, for falsifying mortuary records, a burial permit and a death certificate.

He faced a fourth charge of abetting K. Subramaniam and another person still at large to cheat Dr Wan Mohamad.

Sanjeev had pleaded not guilty to four similar abetment charges.

The three accused will enter their defence on May 17.