

April 22 set for mention of Karpal Singh's sedition case

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KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court has set April 22 for mention of DAP chairman Karpal Singh's sedition charge after he claimed trial here yesterday.

Karpal Singh was alleged to have uttered seditious words during a media conference relating to Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah's consent to remove Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin as the Mentri Besar.

He allegedly committed the offence at his law firm Messrs Karpal Singh & Co between noon and 12.30pm on Feb 6.

If convicted he faces a maximum RM5,000 fine or three years' jail, or both, under Section 4(1)(b) of the Sedition Act.

He was initially charged in the Sessions Court last Tuesday but the case was transferred to the High Court.

The veteran lawyer arrived at courthouse accompanied by a large delegation of lawyers, including his children Gobind Singh Deo, Sangeet Kaur Deo and Ram Karpal Singh.

The Bar Council's Gerald Gomez held a watching brief when the charge was read out to Karpal Singh.

The court interpreter took almost 30 minutes to read out the charge to Karpal Singh, which also included a 10-page transcript of the media conference where he allegedly made the seditious comments.

As Judicial Commissioner Azman Abdullah was consulting DPP Manoj Kurup and Karpal Singh on a suitable date for hearing, the latter asked for the case to be mentioned in court first.

Manoj agreed and Justice Azman set the date for mention on April 22.

Outside the courtroom, Karpal Singh said he wanted the case to be mentioned first so that he could raise objections if he was unhappy with documents submitted by the prosecution team.