

Our **Yvonne Raj** was retained by the family of the deceased to hold a watching brief in this trial.

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Boy charged with murder of girl, 11

■ By **Rosnazura Idrus**
nazura@nstp.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Form One pupil who allegedly stabbed to death an 11-year-old girl in Wangsa Maju last week was today charged in the magistrate's court with murder.

The boy, 12 years and nine months old, who was remanded a day after he allegedly committed the offence, nodded when asked by the court interpreter whether he understood the charge that was read to him.

His lawyer, Steven Ng, stood next to him to explain the charge. Clad in a brown sleeveless T-shirt, a pair of tracksuit bottom and Japanese slippers, he was brought from the court's lock-up in handcuffs.

He paused to gaze at his family in the public gallery before being led to the centre of the courtroom, outside the dock. The handcuffs were later removed.

The accused was charged with murdering Liew Mei Fong by stabbing her in the back with a sharp weapon, thus causing her death at 71 Jalan 82/26, Taman Seri Rampai,

Wangsa Maju, between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on May 30.

Under section 302 of the Penal Code, the offence is punishable with death. However, the death penalty is not applicable in this case as, according to section 16 of the Juvenile Courts Act, a juvenile convicted of a capital offence will be detained at the pleasure of the Ruler.

The proceedings, which started about 11.30am, were twice adjourned when counsel K. Balaguru raised the issue of bail and detention of the boy after prosecuting officer Chief Inspector Yeak Tiew Poh asked the court to fix a mention date, pending the completion of the chemist's report.

Balaguru said the case should be transmitted to the High Court (as murder falls under the High Court's jurisdiction) as soon as possible since the boy, being a juvenile, should not be jailed.

He asked for a short adjournment to enable him to approach a Deputy Public Prosecutor.

When the case was called again after about 10 minutes, Balaguru told the court he could not find a DPP in

the court premises, but had spoken to a probation officer.

The probation officer, Sulaiman Ismail, subsequently told the court that he had contacted his superior and was told that for serious cases such as murder, the accused should be held at the Sungai Buloh prison as it had better facilities than the Welfare Department's hostel.

Balaguru then insisted that the case be transferred as soon as possible to the High Court. Magistrate Rosli Ahmad then ordered the proceedings to be adjourned to the afternoon.

About 3pm, Yeak asked the court to fix a mention date since the magistrate's court had no power to transfer the case to the High Court without a sanction by the Attorney-General.

He asked for a mention date two months from today, to which Balaguru objected, saying that was too long a time if the prosecution was only waiting for a sanction.

The court finally fixed July 8 for mention and the boy was sent to Kajang Prison.

Teen charged with murdering girl, 11

By **M. MAGESWARI**

KUALA LUMPUR: A 13-year-old boy was charged in a magistrate's court here yesterday with murdering his tuition teacher's daughter.

The Form One student from Setapak Jaya was charged with causing the death of Liew Mei Fong, 11, by stabbing her with a sharp weapon at a house in Taman Sri Rampai in Wangsa Maju between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on May 30.

The teenager was charged under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which carries the mandatory death sentence upon conviction.

No plea was recorded from

the student, who was arrested on May 30.

C/Insp Yeak Tiew Poh prosecuted while K. Balaguru and Steven Ng represented the teenager.

Yvonne Raj held a watching brief for the Mei Fong's family.

Earlier, Balaguru asked the magistrate to transfer the case to the High Court.

"If we wait for two months to mention this case again and then transfer it to the High Court, it will not be practical as a child offender should not be remanded for too long," he added.

Magistrate Rosli Ahmad fixed July 8 for mention.

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