

200 witnesses expected to testify

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KOTA KINABALU: About 200 witnesses are expected to testify against a former Sabah Water Department director and two others in a money laundering case involving a total of RM61.48 million in the sessions court here.

However, deputy public prosecutor from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Husmaruddin Hussin told the court there was a possibility that not all of the witnesses would be called to testify.

He also said that the prosecution had served the defence with the necessary documents in the form of a compact disc and invited the counsel to the Sabah MACC office should they need to inspect the actual documents.

Counsel P. J. Pereira and Baldev Singh requested two months before trial commences for the defence to inspect the voluminous documents at the MACC office.

Judge Abu Bakar Manat, however, fixed the trial between July 4 - 28 and between Aug 8 - 25.

He said any change to the dates of trial could be made during the final date for case management on May 4.

On Dec 29, former Sabah Water Department director Awang Mohd Tahir Mohd Talib, 54, pleaded not guilty to eight counts of possessing RM56.9 million in cash and in four bank accounts, two charges for unlawful possession of six luxury vehicles and another charge of unlawful possession of 86 branded



Former Sabah Water Department director Awang Mohd pleaded not guilty to all eight charges.

wrist watches.

He also pleaded not guilty with his wife, Fauziah Piut, 51, to two counts of unlawful possession of jewellery, while Fauziah was charged with another 19 offences for unlawful possession of jewellery and luxury bags, as well as a total of RM2.2 million in various bank accounts.

Another accused, Sabah Finance Ministry technical and engineering adviser Lim Lam Beng, 62, who has been suspended from the post, was charged with unlawful possession of a vehicle and three counts of possessing a total of RM2.38 million in cash.