

Ex-engineer finally pleads guilty

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SHAH ALAM: Four years ago, Nor Rafidah Dan was enjoying the good life.

She was a district engineer with the Kuala Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department with a good salary and a family to go to at the end of the day.

But her world crumbled in May 2002 when she was charged with two counts of receiving valuables from a contractor whom she knew was connected with her official duties.

Not long after, she lost her job.

Yesterday, she changed her plea to guilty after years of claiming to be innocent of a

charge of receiving RM10,000 from Othaman Mohamed.

She admitted depositing the money into her Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad account in Wisma Hicom, Glenmarie branch, on Aug 14, 1999.

For a public servant to receive valuable items from persons concerned with proceedings or business transacted by the public servant is an of-

fence under the Penal Code.

The offence carries a maximum two years' jail or fine, or both.

Nor Rafidah was also charged with accepting a shoe cabinet worth RM7,700 from Othaman at No 25, Jalan Opu Daeng Chelak 9/2, Shah Alam, between Nov 1 and 30, 1998.

Judge Mariana Yahya fixed sentencing for tomorrow.

In mitigation, her counsel Zamani Ibrahim urged the court not to impose a custodial sentence as the accused had suffered enough since the incident. She had also made attempts to repay Othaman.

"She has developed hypertension and has been emotionally disturbed since the case began," he said.

DPP Mohd Hamzah, howev-

er, pressed for a deterrent sentence and urged the court to consider public interest.

According to the facts of the case, Nor Rafidah, who was then also the chairman of Quotations and Selection Committee, awarded a project to Pembinaan Hidayah owned by Othaman although the company was not short-listed by the committee.