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Tabung Haji employees found guilty of hacking

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Lembaga Tabung Haji employees, who hacked into the pilgrimage fund's database to fast-track pilgrims in exchange for bribes, got jail time and a total of RM100,000 in fines.

Sessions Court judge Mat Ghani Abdullah convicted clerk Roslan Mohamed Som, 47, for graft for accepting RM6,750 to allow 27 pilgrims to "jump queue" in the 2010 haj list.

He also found research and development division and systems analyst Afizul Yasin, 32, guilty of three counts of using a special computer

programme to access the Tabung Haji database and add the pilgrims' names into the system.

"The court finds the defence has failed to raise reasonable doubt against the prosecution's case," ruled judge Mat Ghani.

Counsel Imam Abu Sa'id Nashrawi pleaded for leniency due to his client Roslan's poor health and need for continued medical treatment.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission DPP Mohd Sophian Zakaria argued that the mitigation was merely a personal excuse.

"The accused, as employees of

Tabung Haji, have marred the image of the fund and the Government through their actions," said Mohd Sophian.

He urged the court to hand down a harsh punishment, saying it was a matter of public interest.

Mat Ghani sentenced Roslan to four years' jail and a fine of RM40,000, while Afizul got three years' jail and a total of RM60,000 in fines for his three offences.

The court allowed Imam's application for a stay of execution against the jail sentence but raised bail to RM30,000 for each accused.