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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 4 (BERNAMA) -- THE HIGH COURT HERE WILL TOMORROW FIX A DATE TO CONTINUE HEARING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHANAD'S APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION FROM THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW AND ITS EDITOR RELATING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LIBEL SUIT OVER ITS REPORT ON THE PURPORTED PROPOSAL TO SELL LIMBANG TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

THE HEARING WAS SUPPOSED TO CONTINUE TODAY BUT BOTH THE COUNSEL FOR THE COMPLAINANT AND RESPONDENTS, ENCIK MUHAMMAD SHAFFEE ABDULLAH, AND SENIOR FEDERAL COUNSEL T.SELVENTHIRANATHAN, WERE ENGAGED IN ANOTHER CASE.

IN THE APPLICATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHAHTIR WANTS THE MAGAZINE AND ENCIK DEREK DAVIES TO SPECIFY THE NAME OF THE SOURCE OR SOURCES, PARTICULARS OF EACH AND EVERY OCCASION WHEN THEY CONTENDED THE SAID SOURCES OR SOURCES PROVED TO BE WELL-INFORMED AND RELIABLE, WHEN AND WHERE THE INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED, AND IN WHAT FORM IT WAS CONVEYED.

HE IS SUING THE TWO FOR LIBEL OVER THE ARTICLE WHICH APEARED IN THE MAGAZINE'S MAY 21 ISSUE LAST YEAR.

IN THE SUIT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS ALSO SEEKING UNSPECIFIED DAMAGES FOR ALLEGED LIBEL CONTAINED IN AN APOLOGY AND RETRACTION RELATING TO THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE MAGAZINE ON JUNE 4 LAST YEAR. -- MORE

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AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE CLAIMS THAT THE WORDS IN THE ARTICLE CONCERNING HIM IN THE WAY OF HIS OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER, IN THEIR ORDINARY MEANING, WERE UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THAT HE WAS ENGAGED IN AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND SURREPTITIOUS ATTEMPT TO SELL TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM A PART OF THE TERRITORY OF SARAWAK WHICH IS A COMPONENT OF MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE SAID WORDS, HE HAD BEEN DAMAGED IN HIS CHARACTER AS PRIME MINISTER AND HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO PUBLIC SCANDAL, ODIUM AND CONTEMPT.

THE MAGAZINE AND ITS EDITOR, IN THEIR DEFENCE, DENIED THE ARTICLE WAS MEANT TO DEFAME THE PRIME MINISTER, ADDING THAT IF THE WORDS WERE DEFAMATORY, THEY WERE PUBLISHED WITH QUALIFIED PRIVILEGE AS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS A PUBLIC FIGURE KNOWN IN MALAYSIA AND THE WORLD. -- BERNAMA

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