

28 AUG 1996

Court-MHSB

TAMRIN WISH TO TAKE OVER PROJECT, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- The High Court here was today told that former Mara chairman Tamrin Ghafar has expressed his intention to take over the publication of magazines and production of video movies for Mara Holdings Sdn Bhd (MHSB) express buses on the expiry of its contract with a Bumiputera firm.

The director of Dasar Profil (M) Sdn Bhd, Soberi Shafii, said that he was informed that the contract between his company and MHSB, a Mara subsidiary, had been terminated when his appeal was rejected because Tamrin and Hanafi Majid, a member of the board of Dasar Profil Sdn Bhd, wanted the project.

He was testifying at the hearing of a suit against MHSB for termination of the contract, although it was not signed between the two parties, whereas MHSB had given a written undertaking to hold the signing of the contract on March 30, 1992.

Dasar Profil Sdn Bhd is seeking RM40 million from MHSB for damages following the termination of the contract and RM731,761 special damages. The company is also seeking four per cent interest over the special damages from the date of termination, eight per cent interest over damages from the date the writ was filed and costs.

The RM731,761 included the cost of the launching of Limora Travel Service Sdn Bhd on behalf of MHSB by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Feb 23, 1992. The RM40 million was based on profits estimated at RM4 million for a 10-year period.

Counsel Christopher Fernando, representing Soberi, told the court that he was withdrawing the suit against Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) which was earlier named as second defendant.

Soberi said that Dasar Profil Sdn Bhd was a joint venture between his company, Scope Glow Sdn Bhd, and MHSB, to produce a bi-monthly magazine, "Imej" and supply "Vision 20: Video On the Move" in all MHSB express buses except the Ekspres Nasional.

He said that Scope Glow Sdn Bhd owns 70 per cent and MHSB 30 per cent stake.

Dasar Profil Sdn Bhd was offered the contract for the project on Oct 11, 1991 on the agreement of the MHSB through a letter.

He said that under a draft agreement between both parties, the contract was for five years after which it was up to Dasar Profil Sdn Bhd to renew the contract for another five years.

Soberi said that all conditions in the draft agreement to be signed including the right of the company to earnings from advertisements, had been mentioned by Tamrin at a Mara meeting.

He said that the signing of the contract due on March 30, 1992 had to be postponed as Tamrin and Hanafi were overseas.

Hearing continues tomorrow. -- BERNAMA

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