

11 NOV 1997

Court-Ramanathan

DEC 10 DECISION ON RAMANATHAN'S SUIT AGAINST KHALID

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- The High Court here today fixed Dec 10 for the decision on the suit brought by former national athletics coach C. Ramanathan against Datuk Khalid Yunus in his capacity as the Malaysian Amateur Athletics Union (MAAU) president.

Judicial Commissioner Datuk R.K. Nathan made the ruling after hearing submissions from Ramanathan's counsel Karpal Singh and Mahathir Abdullah, representing Khalid.

Ramanathan, 62, had named Khalid, 54, as the defendant in his suit, for suspending him as coach following police investigations into his alleged sexual harrasment of two female athletes.

Ramanathan is seeking a declaration that MAAU's letter of suspension dated April 18, 1994, is bad in law, null and void and of no effect or consequence.

He also claimed that MAAU's decision-making process was ultra vires to its constitution as it did not appoint a disciplinary committee to propose to the National Sports Council to suspend him as coach.

He is also claiming that he had lost his source of income as a result of MAAU's action and was seeking payment of his full salary and other benefits on the terms and conditions before the suspension pending the disposal of the suit.

He is also seeking a declaration that he be paid arrears of his RM700 monthly allowance, damages, interest, costs and other relief deemed fit by the court.

Earlier, Karpal submitted to the court that Ramanathan was not given an opportunity by MAAU to explain his side of the story, the reasons for his suspension and the suspension period.

He said though the defendant had proven that Ramanathan was not an employee of MAAU, his rights for legitimate expectation could not be denied.

Mahathir countered saying the issue did not arise as Ramanathan was not a permanent employee of MAAU and he could not expect MAAU to re-hire him.

-- BERNAMA

SBB TS