

28/11/1998

PM, Government file notice of appearance

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Government have filed their notice of appearance in respect of a suit by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is challenging his dismissal.

The notice was filed by the Attorney-General's Chambers on Nov 24 and served on Anwar's solicitors, Karpal Singh and Co, that same day. Lawyer M. Manoharan from the legal firm said they were preparing a notice of appointment which would be filed early next week.

"We will serve it on the respondents the moment we extract it," he said, adding that his firm would be applying for an early hearing date. A notice of appointment is filed to enable the court to fix a hearing date.

Anwar, who is being tried on four of five charges of corrupt practices, had filed his originating summons in the High Court on Nov 13. He is seeking a declaration that he is still the Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister since his dismissal on Sept 2 was null and void as it violated Article 43(5) of the Federal Constitution.

The article states that ministers other than the Prime Minister shall hold office during the pleasure of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, unless the appointment of any minister shall have been revoked by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the advice of the Prime Minister, but any minister may resign his office.

(END)