

08 JAN 1999

Anwar-Sue

ANWAR SUES DR MAHATHIR, RAHIM NOOR AND GOVT OVER "BLACK EYE" INCIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is suing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor and the government for the injuries he suffered while under police custody.

The writ of summons was filed at the Civil High Court Registry at Wisma Denmark here by his lawyer Karpal Singh and Gobind Singh Deo at 10.30am.

In his statement of claim, the former deputy prime minister named Dr Mahathir as the first defendant as being the Home Minister, he is charged with the responsibility of the Royal Malaysia Police.

He named Rahim as the second defendant as the police force comes under his command and the government the third defendant.

Anwar said he was arrested at about 10pm on Sept 20, 1998 at his residence and was taken by police in a van.

Anwar said he was taken to the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman and was placed in a cell. He was blind-folded and handcuffed from behind between 11pm and 11.30pm.

As he was being handcuffed and blind-folded, he was ordered to stand up and suddenly he felt a hard punch on his left eye and forehead.

He was also hit on the head and beaten severely on the left side of his neck and slapped several times severely until blood ran down from his nose and mouth.

Anwar claimed he was barely conscious when a few police personnel helped wipe off the blood after which he fell unconscious.

The next day, he had an enormous swelling on his left eye which he could not open.

Anwar said the blows to his neck worsened his old injury and this affected the nerves on his right hand which he could not move for some time.

Anwar also claimed he could not walk properly and had to be assisted by policemen. He said he was denied medical treatment for almost five days.

He said he was put in solitary confinement at an unknown place three days after his arrest and his pleas for medical attention were ignored.

He said it was only on the fifth day that he was allowed to be treated by a woman doctor.

Anwar claimed he suffered trauma, humiliation, distress and indignity and hence, he was entitled to exemplary damages with regard to the arbitrariness, oppressiveness and unconstitutionality of the acts of the police personnel who inflicted the injuries on him.

He claimed that he is also entitled to aggravated damages with regard to the outrageous conduct of the police personnel concerned.

He is also claiming other costs and relief deemed fit by the court.

In his suit, Anwar also referred to Dr Mahathir's statement on Sept 30 that the possibility of the injuries being self-inflicted could not be dismissed and that he (Anwar) could have provoked the police.

He said the statement had aggravated and compounded the injustice perpetrated on him and hence, he had suffered injuries, loss and damage.

Anwar also attached the particulars of his eye injuries as found by eye specialist Dr Ahmad Shukri Mohamad to support his claims.

-- BERNAMA

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