

25 JAN 1999

Court-Anwar

ANWAR FILES RM100 MILLION DEFAMATION SUIT AGAINST MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim filed a RM100 million defamation suit against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the High Court here today.

The suit alleging that Dr Mahathir had defamed him on Sept 22 last year was filed by his counsel, Karpal Singh, at the High Court registry at Wisma Denmark.

Anwar is also seeking an injunction to restrain Dr Mahathir, on his own, or through his workers and/or agents, from further making any defamatory statement against him.

He also wants costs and other reliefs deemed fit by the court.

In his statement of claim, Anwar said Dr Mahathir had uttered the defamatory words to local and foreign journalists including Dorinda Elliot, a journalist from the international news magazine, Newsweek, at his office on Sept 22 last year.

He said this had resulted in the statements being re-produced in the Oct 5 issue of the magazine under the headline "Here's Mud In Your Face".

He also claimed that Dr Mahathir had uttered the defamatory words with the knowledge that the words would be widely published in Malaysia and throughout the world.

Anwar, 51, was sacked as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2 last year and later charged with five counts of committing corrupt practice by using his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of corrupt practice against him.

His on-going trial on four of the charges resumes tomorrow. He also faces five sodomy charges.

Karpal Singh, in a press statement, said Anwar's move to file the defamation suit against Dr Mahathir for substantial damages was necessary to clear his name because of the recent judgments handed down by the courts relating to his alleged sexual misconduct.

He said he hoped that the court would fix an early date for the hearing.

-- BERNAMA

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