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Anwar files statement of claim in RM100m suit

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today filed the statement of claim for his RM100 million libel suit against the Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd.

It was filed on behalf of Anwar by Messrs Karpal Singh & Company at the High Court (civil division) registry.

On Jan 26, Anwar filed a suit against the Sun Media Corporation for publishing an article, based on a Press conference given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, titled "Anwar's behaviour despicable: PM" in the Sun newspaper on Sept 23, 1998.

In the statement of claim, Anwar said the defendant published the said words without making any or any adequate checks or attempts to verify the facts with him before publication.

He said the defendant published the said words despite specific knowledge that he had publicly denied the matter that was published prior to his arrest on Sept 20 last year.

Anwar also said the defendant republished the said words on page one and two in the Sun on Jan 28 after the issue of the writ, thereby making profits.

"The defendant calculated that such profits to be made would be likely to exceed the damage at risk."

He said the defendant published and republished the said words to gain more by the said publication and republication than it would lose if sued for defamation.

In his suit, he is also seeking an injunction restraining the defendant from further publishing the said or any similar libel upon him, with interest, costs and any further relief deemed fit and proper by the court.

Anwar, 51, is currently being tried on four charges of corrupt practice. He is also facing another corrupt practice charge and five of sodomy.

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