

27 AUG 1999

Court-Mirzan

COURT DISMISSES STAR'S BID FOR A STAY ORDER WITH COSTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- The High Court here today dismissed with costs the application by Star Papyrus Printing Sdn Bhd for a stay of the order issued by a senior assistant registrar in a RM150 million libel suit brought against the printer by Mirzan Mahathir, the prime minister's eldest son.

Justice Datuk Hashim Yusof delivered the decision in his chambers after hearing submissions from counsel Datuk V.K. Lingam for Mirzan and Muhammad Shafee Abdullah for the printer on Tuesday.

Lingam told reporters later that one of the main reasons for the dismissal was the judge's findings that there were no special circumstances disclosed by the printer's affidavit as required by the law for a stay of the order made by Terriruddin Mohamed Salleh on Aug 14.

He said Shafee had applied for a stay pending appeal to the Court of Appeal over Hashim's decision today. The application will be heard tomorrow by Hashim.

Terriruddin had ordered Star Papyrus to give better and further particulars to Mirzan and if the printer failed to do so by tomorrow, then its statement of defence in the suit would be struck out.

Star Papyrus, a subsidiary of Star Publications (M) Berhad, and the printer of the Kuala Lumpur edition of the Asian Wall Street Journal, had filed notice of appeal against the order.

Mirzan is suing the printer over the Jan 4 front-page article in the Asian Wall Street Journal with the headline "Mahathir's eldest son limits ambitions."

The article detailed Mirzan's career and how he was allegedly helped by banks and other companies in Malaysia on his way to success.

-- BERNAMA

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