

23 FEB 1999

Court-Libel

KIT SIANG SUES UTUSAN FOR RM250 MILLION FOR LIBEL

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang today filed a suit against Utusan Melayu (M) Berhad, seeking RM250 million in damages for alleged libel published in its daily newspaper.

The writ of summons was filed by Messrs Karpal Singh & Co at the High Court registry in Wisma Denmark.

Lim contended that the company had published an article headed "Kit Siang tidak patriotik - PBPM" (Kit Siang unpatriotic-PBPM) containing libel in its Feb 13, 1999, issue of the Utusan Malaysia newspaper.

Lim is also seeking an injunction order to restrain Utusan Melayu from further publishing the said or any similar libel on him.

He is also seeking interest on the adjudged sum, costs and any further or other relief deemed fit and proper by the court.

Present at the registry were Lim, his supporters and his lawyers, Karpal Singh, Jagdeep Singh Deo and Gobind Singh Deo.

Speaking to reporters outside the registry, Lim said he and his lawyers had taken into account two recent defamation suits in deciding on the RM250 million quantum against the company.

The first was by Mirzan Mahathir, son of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who sued the printers of Asian Wall Street Journal - Star Papyrus, a subsidiary of Star Publications, for RM150 million and the second, by Berjaya Group chairman and chief executive Tan Sri Vincent Tan who sued Star Papyrus for RM200 million, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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