

05 FEB 1999

Anwar-Writ

WRIT OF SUMMONS SERVED ON PM THROUGH HIS LAWYERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- The legal firm representing former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in his RM100 million defamation suit against Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today served the writ of summons on the prime minister through his lawyers.

Gobind Singh Deo, representing Messrs Karpal Singh & Co served the copy of the writ to Messrs Shearn Delamore and Co at Wisma Hamzah-Kwong Hing in Lebu Ampang, here, at 11.45am.

He told reporters that they were informed "by way of letter" that Shearn Delamore was representing Dr Mahathir in the suit in which Anwar is seeking RM100 million in damages for slander allegedly uttered by him (Dr Mahathir) at his office on Sept 22, last year.

Another writ of summons was served on the Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd at 2.55pm through the law firm V.Siva & Partners at the Loke Yew building, here.

Anwar claims Dr Mahathir uttered the defamatory words to local and foreign journalists including Dorinda Elliot, a journalist from the international news magazine Newsweek, resulting in the statements being reproduced in the Oct 5 issue of the magazine under the headline "Here's Mud in Your Face".

He also claims 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 had also filed a defamation suit against the Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd seeking RM100 million in damages for libel allegedly published in an article in its Sept 23 issue of The Sun newspaper under the headline "Anwar's Behaviour Despicable: PM".

In both suits, Anwar is also seeking an injunction order to restrain Dr Mahathir and the Sun Media, or through their workers and/or agents, and directors from further making and publishing any defamatory statement against him.

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

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

The High Court here, on Jan 30, this year, ordered Anwar to enter his defence on four charges of corrupt practice. The defence is scheduled to start on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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