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Anwar's defamation suit appeal to be known on Saturday

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed: The Court of Appeal will decide on Saturday Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's appeal against the High Court decision to strike out his RM100 million defamation suit against the Prime Minister.

The decision will be given by Court of Appeal Justices Datuk Ahmad Fairuz (now a Federal Court judge), Datuk Mokhtar Sidin and Denis Ong, who heard the arguments on Aug 15.

The arguments were made by Anwar's counsel Karpal Singh while Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was represented by Datuk Adnan Shuaib.

On Jan 25 last year, Anwar sued Mahathir, saying that Mahathir slandered him dur-

ing a press conference on Sept 22, 1998 which damaged his reputation locally and internationally.

On Aug 30 last year, High Court judge Datuk R.K Nathan allowed Mahathir's application to strike out the suit without a full trial, stating that the prime minister was duty-bound to disclose the information concerning Anwar, who was then his deputy.

In a 25-page written judgment, Nathan, among other things, said that the words spoken by Mahathir were merely statements of facts already widely published before the words were spoken. He also said that the suit was frivolous and an abuse of the court process.