

# Mirzan settles defamation suits against two dailies for 'substantial amount' in damages

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By  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Businessman Mirzan Mahathir today settled his defamation suits against the publishers and printer of two Chinese dailies and three others for an unspecified "substantial amount" in damages in the High Court today.

Mirzan had sued them for a total of RM550 million over two offending articles that appeared in the *Sin Chew Jit Poh* and *Guang Ming Daily* newspapers on Jan 5 last year.

Reading from a written statement before judge Datuk Dr R.K. Nathan in open court, Datuk R.R. Sethu said the defendants:

- admit the publication of the articles;
- accept that the offending publications had hurt and injured Mirzan's personal and business reputation;
- unreservedly apologise to Mirzan and have paid substantial damages in compensation for the libel;
- undertake to publish this (settlement) statement on the front pages of both dailies with Mirzan's photograph; and,
- give an undertaking to

Mirzan that they would not repeat or publish the articles or similar words concerning him in any manner whatsoever.

Sethu said the articles had appeared in *Sin Chew Jit Poh* and *Guang Ming Daily* respectively on Jan 5 last year.

Mirzan, who is Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd group executive chairman, had sued Pemandangan Sinar Sdn Bhd, publisher and printer for *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, *Sin Chew Jit Poh* group editor-in-chief Liew Chen Chuan, its news editor Lim You Soon, publisher Guang-Ming Ribao Sdn Bhd, *Guang Ming Daily* group editor-in-chief, a position also held by Liew, and its editor-in-chief Yong Yoew Khoon for a total of RM400 million.

He had also sued Pemandangan Sinar for another RM150 million as printer for *Guang Ming Daily*.

Nathan granted the settlement order and ruled that the settlement statement be recorded as part of the order.

Mirzan, who was present in court, was represented by Datuk V.K. Lingam and R. Thayalan.

*Sin Chew Jit Poh* group chief-executive-officer P.C. Liew was also present in court.