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Printer applies for stay in Mirzan's suit for RM150m

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Star Papyrus Printing Sdn Bhd has applied for a stay of proceedings in respect of businessman Mirzan Mahathir's RM150 million libel suit against it.

Counsel Gurmeet Kaur Sidhu who is representing Star Papyrus, made the application pending an appeal to the Court of Appeal against High Court Judge Datuk Dr. R.K.Nathan's decision in ordering that they furnish further details of their defence in the case.

Nathan had on March 7 dismissed an appeal by Star Papyrus against a Senior Assistant Registrar's decision ordering that they furnish further details.

Nathan today fixed April 17 to hear the application.

Mirzan, group executive chairman of Konsortium Perkapalan Berhad, is suing Star Papyrus over an Asian Wall Street Journal article entitled "Mahathir's Eldest Son Limits Ambitions", that was written by G. Bruce Knecht. The article in question was front-paged on Jan 4 last year. Star Papyrus is a subsidiary of Star Publications Berhad.

In his statement of claim, Mirzan said that a paragraph in the article implied that he had built his business empire as a willing beneficiary of nepotism, favouritism and privilege and not on his own ability.

He said his reputation was seriously damaged and brought into public odium, scandal and contempt.

In its defence, Star Papyrus denied it published or authorised the publication of the journal.

Gurmeet and Bhag Singh represented Star Papyrus while S. Ashokvijay appeared for Mirzan.

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