

# RM60m suit TV3 to know fate on June 11

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KUALA LUMPUR Thurs — The High Court today fixed June 11 to deliver its decision in a RM60 million defamation suit by former Pas secretary general Halim Arshat against TV3 and two others over a news bulletin

Judge Datuk Dr R K Nathan fixed the date after the defence closed its case today and instructed parties to submit written submissions

Counsel Mohamad Hanipa Maidin for Halim and counsel P H Looi who is representing the defendants are to submit their written submissions by April 16 and May 7 respectively

Earlier TV3's information technology executive Abdul Malek Faisal Hyffny 35 testified for the defence

Halim Arshat is suing TV3 its then operations director Yunus Said and *Buletin Utama* producer Rozaireen Ibrahim over the news bulletin on Aug 18 1997

He claimed the news broadcast of an article published in the *Harakah* tabloid allegedly accusing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of coming out of Islam (*murtad*) was false and malicious

Halim 58 claimed the words in the news bulletin referred or were understood to refer to him because

he was at the material time the Pas secretary general and also the permit holder for *Harakah*

He claimed that the words meant among others that *Harakah* and Pas had published the false news that was defamatory of the Prime Minister and that *Harakah* and Pas were vengeful and jealous of the Prime Minister and the country

As a result Halim said he suffered acute embarrassment his credibility character and reputation were tarnished and he was humiliated The defendants deny they had falsely and maliciously published the news