

Senator files libel suit against woman

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KUALA LUMPUR: A senator has filed a RM50mil libel suit against a businesswoman for circulating a letter two years ago to several ministers complaining of her alleged fraud.

In her statement of claim dated April 2, Senator Datuk Nor Azah **Awin** said Nor **Azizah** Borhan, who is also the former Usahanita president, had falsely and maliciously written and published a letter containing allegations against her about the ownership of a company.

She said the letter, dated **Dec 14, 1999**, was addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and was copied to five others including Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri **Abdullah Ahmad** Badawi and the Entrepreneur Development Minister.

Nor Azah claimed that the words used, in their natural and ordinary meaning, meant and were understood to mean that she was among others, a hypocrite; a dishonest person and of no integrity, an irresponsible businesswoman and corporate figure without good working ethics and unfit to be a leader.

She said her lawyers had served on the defendant a notice of demand dated last **Oct 12** asking for an apology and a written undertaking that the allegations would not be repeated and compensation.

However, she said the defendant did not reply.

Nor Azah is also seeking aggravated and exemplary damages, an injunction to restrain the defendant from further publishing the defamatory words, interest and costs.

Yesterday, the hearing of the plaintiff's application seeking an injunction before High Court judge Datuk Dr R. K. Nathan was adjourned after counsel for the defendant asked for more time to file **their affidavits-in-reply**.

The judge later fixed May 16 for another case management.

The senator was represented by **D.P. Naban**, while **R. Thayakugan** and **Ratnesh N.P. Chandran** appeared for the defendant.