

# Anwar ordered to pay Dr M RM85,284.80

Nst 18 APR 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The High Court today ordered Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to pay Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad RM85,284.80 as costs in relation to the striking out of his RM100 million libel suit against the Prime Minister.

Deputy Registrar Rozilah Salleh made the order in her chambers this afternoon.

Anwar's suit was struck out by the High Court on Aug 30, 1999, as a preliminary issue without going for a full trial.

The Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's decision on Dec 9 and an application for leave to appeal to the Federal court was rejected.

In striking out the suit, High Court judge Datuk R.K. Nathan had then ruled that Anwar's claim

was "obviously unsustainable".

The matter came up today before Rozilah for determination of costs. Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister, had sought RM203,958.80.

Anwar filed his suit on Jan 25 last year claiming, among other things, that Dr Mahathir had, at a Press conference on Sept 22, 1998, "falsely and maliciously" spoken to local and foreign reporters accusing him of committing immoral acts.

He said the words were defamatory in their ordinary meaning and in the context they were spoken.

In his statement of defence, the Prime Minister had claimed justification.

Counsel Fadzilah Mohd Pilus appeared for Dr Mahathir while Karpal Singh represented Anwar.