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# Anwar ordered to pay RM18,000 more as costs to the prime minister

**KUALA LUMPUR**, Fri: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was today ordered to pay the prime minister RM18,489 as costs for his unsuccessful appeal against the striking out of a RM100 million libel suit.

Federal Court deputy registrar S. Kalyana Kumar made the order in chambers, after hearing submissions from Anwar's lawyer Karpal Singh, Fadzilah Mohd Pilus, who represented Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On Feb 23, the Federal Court rejected Anwar's application for leave to appeal against a High Court ruling which summarily dismissed his libel suit against Mahathir.

Following the decision, Mahathir asked for RM102,114 as costs of the proceedings.

This is the second time Anwar has been ordered to pay costs to Mahathir in relation to the libel suit.

On April 17, Anwar was

ordered to pay RM85,000 as costs for the proceedings before High Court judge Datuk Dr R.K. Nathan.

Anwar had filed the suit in January 1999, claiming aggravated and exemplary damages, for words uttered by the prime minister during a press conference on Sept 22, 1998.

He alleged that Mahathir chose to defame him while he was in detention, knowing that the former deputy prime minister was in no position to defend himself or make any effective stand against the allegations.

On Aug 30, 1999 Nathan allowed Mahathir's application to strike out the libel suit, stating that the prime minister was duty-bound to disclose information on his ex-deputy.

In defence, Mahathir said the statements were made in the course of discussion on government and political matters which concerned Anwar.