

Feb 19 hearing of Anwar's application

Nst 30 JAN 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Federal Court will hear on Feb 19 Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's application for leave to appeal against the dismissal of his appeal relating to the striking out of his RM100 million libel suit against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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 last Dec 9.

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

The judge had awarded costs to Dr Mahathir.

Anwar filed his suit on Jan 25 last year claiming, among

other things, that Dr Mahathir had, 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.