

06 JUL 2001

Court-Anwar

ANWAR ORDERED TO PAY COSTS OF RM18,489 TO MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was ordered by the Federal Court here today to pay costs of RM18,489 to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in relation to the RM100 million defamation suit he brought against the prime minister.

The quantum was decided by Federal Court Deputy Registrar S.Kalyana Kumar in chambers today in the presence of Anwar's counsel, Karpal Singh, and Dr Mahathir's counsel, Fadzilah Mohamed Pilus.

Dr Mahathir had sought costs of RM102,114.

On Feb 23, the Federal Court dismissed with costs Anwar's application for leave to appeal against the High Court's dismissal of his defamation suit brought against Dr Mahathir.

Anwar sought the leave after the Court of Appeal upheld Justice Datuk Dr R.K. Nathan's decision to dismiss the suit with costs.

The former deputy prime minister filed the suit in January 1999 claiming that Dr Mahathir had lied and had malicious intention when he told a news conference at the Prime Minister's Department that Anwar had committed an immoral act.

Dr Mahathir said in his defence that he had uttered the words in his capacity as the prime minister with qualified privilege.

In dismissing Anwar's application for leave to appeal, Chief Justice Tan Sri Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah, who sat with Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Wan Adnan Ismail and Federal Court Judge Datuk Abdul Malek Ahmad, said they found that the High Court judge had correctly addressed the issues of justification and qualified privilege raised by Dr Mahathir in his defence.

Anwar is currently serving a total of 15 years' jail for corrupt practice and sodomy.

-- BERNAMA

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