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Court-Anwar

RM100 MILLION LIBEL SUIT: ANWAR FILES APPEAL AT FEDERAL COURT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today filed an appeal at the Federal Court over the High Court's decision to quash his RM100 million libel suit against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The notice was filed through Messrs Karpal Singh & Company, the legal firm representing the former deputy prime minister, at the Appeals Court registrar's office here at 3.30 p.m.

The application was made after the Appeals Court upheld the decision of Justice Datuk Dr R.K.Nathan who had quashed Anwar's suit with costs on Dec 9, last year.

Anwar, who filed the suit on Jan 25, 1999, claimed Dr Mahathir had lied and had malicious intention when speaking to local and foreign journalists at a press conference held at the Prime Minister's Department claiming that he (Anwar) had committed immoral acts.

Besides damages, interest and costs, Anwar also sought an injunction to prevent Dr Mahathir from repeating the words.

However, Dr Mahathir in his defence emphasised that he had uttered the words as prime minister with qualified privilege.

In a press statement today, lawyer Karpal Singh said: "Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should be allowed to have his day in court instead of having his suit against Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad being summarily dismissed."

He said legal issues raised should be decided by the Federal Court in the public interest.

An application would be made to secure an early date to hear the case, he added.

-- BERNAMA

SBB AHH AO