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Wanita Umno exco member gets injunction against businesswoman

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Wanita Umno executive committee member Senator Datuk Nor Azah Awin today obtained an injunction from the High Court stopping a businesswoman from further distributing an alleged defamatory letter about her sent to the Prime Minister and other Ministers.

High Court judge Datuk Abdul Hamid Said granted the order with costs in his chambers and fixed case management on Aug 15.

The injunction stops businesswoman Nor Azizah Borhan from further publishing, printing or distributing the alleged defamatory words.

In her RM50 million suit dated April 2, Nor Azah alleged that Nor Azizah falsely, maliciously and recklessly wrote, signed and published the letter which was dated Dec 14, 1999.

Nor Azah claimed, among others, that the words meant that she (Nor Azah) had committed an offence under the Companies Act 1965 and was not at all concerned about the welfare and interest of Bumiputera women entrepreneurs.

She said the letter was also defamatory by way of innuendo.

Nor Azah alleged that the malicious letter was addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and copied to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Muhammad Nazri Abdul Aziz, National Unity Minister Datuk Dr Zaharah Sulaiman, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Malaysia president Mohayani Shamsuddin and the Exco of the Association of Bumiputra Women Entrepreneurs Malaysia (Usahanita).

Nor Azah said that as a result, her character, credit and reputation was seriously injured and her business was brought into public scandal.

She is seeking damages, interest, an injunction, costs and further relief.

In her defence dated April 30, Nor Azizah, among others, said that the words in the letter was a fair comment upon matters of public interest, involving the conduct, character and integrity of Nor Azah as a bumiputra politician and entrepreneur.

She denied that the letter was circulated to other Ministers.

Nor Azizah, a former president of Usahanita, said the words in the letter were not defamatory of Nor Azah and was made bona fide (in good faith).

Nor Azizah is also relying on the defence of justification as well as her fundamental liberty of free speech and expression under Article 10(1)(a) of the Federal Constitution.

Counsel D.P.Naban represented Nor Azah while counsel Ramesh N.P.Chandran appeared for Nor Azizah.

(END)