

Mahathir seeks RM152,700 costs from Anwar

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By **S. Tamarai Chelvi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is seeking RM152,755 costs from Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the latter's unsuccessful appeal against the striking out of a RM100 million libel suit.

Court of Appeal deputy registrar Mohd Nasir Yahya fixed April 26 for decision after hearing submissions from counsel for both sides today.

Anwar was ordered on July 6 to pay RM18,489 as costs by Federal Court deputy registrar. The Federal Court had also rejected his application for leave to appeal against the High Court ruling which summarily dismissed his libel suit.

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

On April 17, Anwar was also ordered to pay

RM85,000 as cost 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 he 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 former deputy.

In defence, Mahathir said the statements were made in the course of discussion on government and political matters which concerned Anwar, who was sacked as the deputy prime minister and finance minister.