

26 APR 2002

Court-Anwar

ANWAR ORDERED TO PAY RM35,381 AS COSTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, April 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was today ordered to pay Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad RM35,381 as costs for his unsuccessful appeal against the striking out of his libel suit against the prime minister.

Court of Appeal Deputy Registrar Mohamed Nasir Yahya made the order in chambers. Counsel Fadzilah Mohamed Pilus represented Dr Mahathir and Karpal Singh appeared for Anwar.

Dr Mahathir is seeking costs of RM152,755.

On Dec 9, 2000, the Appeals Court upheld the decision of High Court which struck out Anwar's suit against Dr Mahathir with costs.

Anwar 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 he (Anwar) had committed an immoral act.

Anwar sought RM100 million in damages.

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

This is the third time Anwar has to pay costs to Dr Mahathir in relation to the libel suit.

On April 17, last year, Anwar was ordered to pay RM85,284.80 as costs for the proceedings before the High Court and another RM18,489 as costs for the proceedings at the Federal Court on July 6, last year.

The Federal Court, on Feb 23, last year, dismissed with costs Anwar's application for leave to appeal against the Court of Appeal's decision to uphold the High Court's decision.

Anwar is currently serving a total of 15 years' jail for corrupt practice and sodomy. The Federal Court has reserved its judgment in the appeal by Anwar to set aside his conviction and six-year jail term on four counts of corruption.

-- BERNAMA

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