

24 SEP 2002
Court-Anwar
ANWAR'S SUIT ADJOURNED AS COUNSEL OUT OF TOWN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- The hearing of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's "black eye" suit against the Home Minister and two others was postponed today because Anwar's counsel Karpal Singh is out of town.

High Court Judge Justice James Foong allowed the adjournment in chambers and fixed March 18 next year for case management.

The case was fixed for a three-day hearing beginning today.

Counsel Gobind Singh Deo, who appeared for Karpal Singh, said Anwar, a former deputy prime minister, would also be filing an application to determine whether the Attorney-General's Chambers should be representing the defendants.

He said the application would be on the grounds that the Attorney-General's Chambers prosecuted the second defendant in the suit, former Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor, who pleaded guilty to the "black eye" incident.

He said the application would also seek to strike out the defendants' defence.

Rahim was sentenced to two months' jail and fined RM2,000 by the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court on March 15, 2000 after he pleaded guilty to causing hurt to Anwar in the lock-up at the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman here at 10.45pm on Sept 20, 1998.

Anwar filed a suit against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was the then Home Minister, Rahim and the government on Jan 8, 1999, seeking exemplary and aggravated damages.

Anwar, 54, who claimed he suffered trauma, humiliation, distress and indignity during his detention, is also seeking other costs and reliefs deemed fit by the court.

In his statement of claim, Anwar said he was arrested in his residence at about 10pm on Sept 20, 1998 and taken to Bukit Aman and placed in a cell.

He claimed that between 11pm and 11.30pm as he was being blindfolded and handcuffed from behind, he was ordered to stand up and suddenly he felt a hard punch on his left eye and forehead.

In their statement of defence, the defendants denied the claim that Anwar was hit on the head and beaten severely until blood ran down from his nose and mouth.

However, they admitted Rahim had slapped Anwar's face but maintained that Anwar's remark "this is the father of dogs" to Rahim had provoked the former IGP and prompted him to act as he did.

Senior Federal Counsel Datuk Mary Lim Thiam Suan appeared for the three defendants.

-- BERNAMA
PK AHH TS