

20/11/2002

Defendants seek more facts regarding Mirzan's libel suit

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The High Court today fixed Jan 28 to hear an application by publisher Dow Jones Publishing Company (Asia) and four others with regard to businessman Mirzan Mahathir's RM200 million libel suit against them.

The application is for Mirzan to provide better and further particulars in his statement of claim.

Judge Datuk James Foong in his chambers today fixed the application for hearing before judge Datuk Abdul Wahab Patail.

Counsel Datuk V.K. Lingam appeared for Mirzan and Charmine Chow for the defendants.

In the suit filed on March 18, 1999, Mirzan is suing the defendants over an article published in the Asian Wall Street Journal on Jan 4, 1999, and posted on a website on the Internet.

Dow Jones Publishing Company (Asia) is the publisher and/or proprietor of AWSJ.

The other defendants are AWSJ's editor Reginald Chua, William Adamopoulos (employed by Dow Jones Publishing as the publisher of AWSJ), AWSJ journalist G. Bruce Knecht and Dow Jones & Company Inc, which carried an article entitled Premier's Son Reins in Business Ambitions in Malaysia, Costly Acquisitions Trip Entrepreneur on its website.

This is the second suit by Mirzan over a front-page article entitled Mahathir's Eldest Son Limits Ambitions, Some Costly Acquisitions Trip an Entrepreneur Tempted by Opportunities.

On Jan 28, 1999, Mirzan filed a RM150 million suit against printer Star Papyrus Printing Sdn Bhd. This suit was settled out of court. The settlement and withdrawal was recorded in open court on Sept 8, 2000.