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Mirzan's RM150m libel suit

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The High Court today fixed Nov 28 for mention of businessman Mirzan Mahathir's application to strike out Star Papyrus Printing Sdn Bhd's defence in respect of his RM150 million libel suit against it.

In the application dated April 12, 2000, Mirzan is seeking to strike out Star Papyrus' defences on the grounds that there was no reasonable defence.

He is also seeking that judgment be entered against Star Papyrus, with costs and other reliefs.

In an affidavit supporting the application, Mirzan said Star Papyrus failed to furnish proper particulars.

Mirzan, group executive chairman of Konsortium Perkapalan Berhad, is suing Star Papyrus over an Asian Wall Street Journal's (AWSJ) article entitled "Mahathir's eldest son limits ambitions", written by G. Bruce Knecht which was front-paged on Jan 4, 1999.

Star Papyrus is printer of the AWSJ for distribution within Malaysia only.

In his statement of claim, Mirzan said his reputation was seriously damaged as a paragraph in the article implied that he had built his business empire as a willing beneficiary of nepotism, favouritism and privilege and not on his own ability.