

08 MAR 2002

Court-Anwar

COURT TO DELIVER DECISION ON COSTS IN ANWAR'S SUIT AGAINST PM NEXT
MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 8 (Bernama) -- The Court of Appeal here today fixed April 26 to deliver its decision on the quantum Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has to pay Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as costs following his unsuccessful application to quash the striking out of his RM100 million libel suit against the prime minister.

Court of Appeal Deputy Registrar Mohamed Nasir Yahya deferred his decision after hearing submissions in chambers today by Dr Mahathir's counsel Fadzilah Mohamed Pilus and counsel Karpal Singh who appeared for Anwar.

Dr Mahathir is seeking costs of RM152,755.

On Dec 9, 2000, the Appeals Court upheld the decision of High Court judge Datuk Dr R.K.Nathan who had 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.

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

This will be 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 hearing of his appeal against his conviction and six-year jail term on four counts of corruption will resume on March 25.

-- BERNAMA

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