

PM withdraws action against Anwar

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has withdrawn a bankruptcy action which he had instituted against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for owing him legal costs of RM35,381.

Anwar's lawyer Sankara N. Nair issued a statement yesterday saying that his client had received the notice of withdrawal on Wednesday.

Dr Mahathir's solicitors Andan Sundra & Low confirmed

that a notice of withdrawal dated Dec 27 was filed. Both sides, however, did not reveal the reason for the move.

In the statement issued by his lawyer, Anwar was quoted as saying that: "My family and I are relieved that Dr Mahathir has withdrawn the suit".

Dr Mahathir's lawyers filed the bankruptcy proceedings after Anwar failed to pay the costs following a stretch of unsuccessful appeals to revive a defamation suit against the

Prime Minister.

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.

The High Court had on Aug 30, 1999, thrown out the suit on the grounds that Anwar's claim was "obviously unsustainable", frivolous, vexatious and an abuse of the court process.

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