

Court rejects Papagomo's postponement request

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The Kuala Lumpur High Court has refused to grant Wan Muhammad Azri Wan Deris, or Papagomo, a postponement to search for another witness for his defence in a RM100 million defamation suit by PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Judicial Commissioner Rosilah Yop also fixed Feb 28 to deliver her decision in the civil suit.

Lawyers N Surendran and Latheefa Koya (left) for Anwar, as well as Jasbeer Singh for Wan Muhammad Azri, met Rosilah in chambers.

"Wan Muhammad asked for more time but the court decided not to allow this as it had indicated yesterday to call the witness today," said Latheefa.

"Following this, we have to put in our written submissions and the court has fixed Feb 28 for decision."

Wan Muhammad Azri had yesterday applied to call the witness who he claims could better identify who blogger Papagomo is.

This follows Wan Muhammad Azri's testimony yesterday in which he denied that he was the pro-Umno blogger, despite being identified by another blogger.

Anwar is suing Wan Muhammad over several blog-posts and images put up in March last year, suggesting the opposition leader was involved in another sex scandal.

The Permatang Pauh MP had vehemently denied the allegation yesterday when giving his testimony in the suit.

Anwar's reputation tarnished

Anwar (right) had testified yesterday that he and his family felt hurt over the articles and the explicit images, which he denied was of him.

He said the articles had tarnished his reputation among Malaysians, majority of whom are Muslims, giving the impression that he is a leader without morals.

"Such things are deemed taboo, especially among the Malay society," he told the court yesterday.

"The defendant inflicted maximum damage upon my reputation as a politician and also the opposition parties.

"The defendant (Wan Muhammad Azri) is close to Umno leaders as he once was allowed by then-defence minister Ahmad Zahid (Hamidi), to board the Scorpene submarine," he said, adding he will not bow down to Umno blogger mercenaries.

Anwar also said that the articles may have affected his votes at the Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat where he claimed he could have otherwise obtained a bigger majority.

Cannot use other court judgement

On cross-examination by Jasbeer yesterday, Anwar also denied being in a hotel room at the Hilton Hotel in KL Sentral, sometime in February last year, where the images were allegedly taken.

Wan Muhammad Azri (right in picture), meanwhile, had testified that not only was he not the blogger in question, but that he does not have any ill-intent against the PKR de facto leader.

The blogger, who is the chief executive officer and editor of KL Pos Media and Productions Sdn Bhd, further denied receiving the suit or letter of demand from Anwar.

Last year, another KL High Court found Wan Muhammad Azri to be Papagomo and ordered the blogger to pay RM500,000 damages to businessperson Abdul Razak Mohd Noor.

The judge also ordered contempt proceedings be initiated on the blogger, which is still pending.

Anwar's lawyers, however, cannot use the judgment made by the other KL High Court against Wan Muhammad Azri in this suit as it the matter pending appeal.

