

Felda sues PKR and office bearers for RM200mil
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KUALA LUMPUR - The Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) is suing two PKR office bearers and four others for RM200mil over claims that it was bankrupt.

In the defamation suit, Felda and its investment company, Felda Global Ventures Holdings Sdn Bhd, named as plaintiffs, are also suing the six for false allegations over the process of buying a Felda building, The Star reported.

Felda, which is the largest oil palm based plantation based group in Malaysia, contends that it is suing PKR as it is responsible for the publication of a monthly newspaper known as Suara Keadilan.

The plaintiffs named PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and her deputy Dr Syed Husin Ali, as the party's office bearers, as defendants in the civil action.

Suara Keadilan publisher Pelita Koridor Sdn Bhd, its printer Percetakan NPK Sdn Bhd, its editor Dzulkarnain Taib and its writer Rusnizam Mahat were named as the remaining defendants.

Felda's lead counsel Mohd Hafarizam Harun filed the suit at the High Court civil registry at 3.11pm Monday.

In the statement of claim, the plaintiffs stated that first defamatory article was published by Suara Keadilan in the June 22-29 edition entitled "Felda Bangkrap" (Felda Bankrupt).

It stated that the second defamatory article, entitled "Bina Bangunan RM662juta hanya melibatkan tiga individu" (The construction of the RM662mil building only involved three individuals) was published by the defendants in the same edition.

In elaborating, Felda stated that the defamatory words in the first article implied that the plaintiffs are insolvent, unable to pay their debts and not creditworthy.

Among others, Felda claimed that the second article meant that the acquisition and construction of the Felda building at the golden triangle was to benefit cronies, did not comply with the law and that the transaction involved caused the plaintiffs' losses.

It claimed that the scandalous nature of the defamation has caused extensive damage and irreparable harm to the plaintiffs' reputation.

Therefore, the plaintiffs are seeking RM200mil in damages for libel and/or malice or injurious falsehood, 8% in interests, costs and further relief deemed by the court.

Besides that, Felda is applying for an injunction to restrain the defendants from further publishing such words and a written apology to be published in newspapers and magazines to be identified by the plaintiffs. - The Star

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