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Najib gets extension of injunction order against Pua

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has been granted an extension of a temporary injunction order to stop PJ Utara MP Tony Pua from defaming him in any manner in relation to a video clip posted on Facebook.

High Court Judicial Commissioner Wan Ahmad Farid Wan Salleh extended the temporary restraining order pending completion of the hearing of a permanent injunction application by Najib.

JC Wan Ahmad Farid has set May 24 to hear submissions by both parties, Najib's lawyer Nik Alia Hanafi

told reporters after the proceedings in chambers yesterday.

"Najib is applying for an injunction order to stop Pua from defaming him in any manner in relation to the video clip posting," said Nik Alia.

Pua's lawyer Joanne Chua said the judicial commissioner had granted the extension to the temporary injunction, obtained from another High Court judge on April 21, after its 21-day order lapsed on May 12.

Najib had, on April 21, sued Pua over the posting of an allegedly defamatory video clip on Facebook.

The video was about PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's

Private Member's Bill to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act, and Najib claimed that Pua broadcast it from the Parliament complex on April 6.

Najib contended that the almost two-and-a-half-minute clip contained slanderous words against him in his capacity as Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

The video was posted on Pua's Facebook page and accessible to Internet users worldwide, he said in his court papers.

Najib is also claiming that Pua had malicious intent to slander him and knew that the video would affect his reputation.

He said the words used implied

that he had abused his power by giving a directive to the Dewan Rakyat Speaker to make way for the tabling of the Bill.

In addition, Najib said, it implied that he was a leader who practised dirty politics to ensure he stayed in power, and it also suggested that he was cheating the people.

The premier is seeking general, additional and exemplary damages for slander and libel.

Among others, Najib is applying for an injunction to stop Pua from repeating the slanderous statements or publishing them, as well as a written apology in two mainstream newspapers and magazines of his choosing.