

# PM SUES PUAD FOR DEFAMATION OVER 3-DAY QUARANTINE POST

Injunction obtained to restrain Umno Supreme Council man from making further statements

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**P**RIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has filed a defamation suit against Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi.

This was over Puad's statement on his Facebook account questioning the alleged double standards involving the three-day quarantine issue.

Muhyiddin also successfully obtained an interim injunction from the High Court to stop the former deputy education minister from making any further statements on the issue.

The lawsuit, filed through Rosli



*Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin*

Dahlan Saravana Partnership at the High Court yesterday, named Puad as the sole defendant.

According to the statement of claim, Muhyiddin said Puad had tarnished his integrity, goodwill and eroded public confidence in him.

"The statement made by the defendant had caused the plaintiff to be brought into public scandal, odium and disrepute.

"The impugned post contained plainly untrue, unwarranted and



*Datuk Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi*

mischievous statements against the plaintiff."

Muhyiddin is seeking general, exemplary and aggravated damages with the amount to be assessed by the court.

He is also seeking an injunction to restrain Puad or his associates or representatives from publishing, posting and sharing the Facebook post or continuing to do so, as well as an injunction to stop such actions in relation to statements similar or related to

the Facebook post.

The prime minister is also seeking a court order for Puad to immediately, prominently and permanently publish an unequivocal public apology on his Facebook page "Dr Puad Zarkashi" in terms to be dictated by Muhyiddin.

High Court judge Datuk Seri Mohd Firuz Jaffril granted Muhyiddin an interim injunction to stop Puad from making any statement relating to the issue.

The injunction was obtained by an urgent application filed by Muhyiddin pending the disposal of the inter parte hearing.

In a letter of demand dated Feb 16, Muhyiddin, through the same law firm, demanded a public apology and compensation of RM10 million from Puad.

Puad responded that he was prepared to meet Muhyiddin in court if the latter decided to proceed with the lawsuit.

He said the legal suit was intended to silence and intimidate critics who questioned the issue of "double standards" on quarantine.