

PM sues Muhyiddin for defamation

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► Remarks at political rally in Kulim calculated to severely undermine my reputation and character, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is suing former premier Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for defamation for allegedly saying he received a RM15 million salary when he was serving as Selangor's economic adviser, Bernama reported.

Anwar, 75, filed the suit through SN Nair & Partners at the High Court yesterday, naming Muhyiddin, 75, as the sole defendant.

According to the statement of claim, Anwar alleged that on Dec 5

Muhyiddin, who is Perikatan Nasional (PN) chairman, made the statement when speaking at the "Grand Finale Perikatan Nasional Padang Serai" political rally in front of hundreds of people in support of PN GE15 candidate Datuk Azman Nasrudin at Taman Selasih in Kulim, Kedah.

The Pakatan Harapan chairman claimed Muhyiddin's speech at the rally was published or led to its republication on TikTok under the name "@beritakini8", which

received more than 1.1 million views, 6,061 comments, more than 21,400 "likes", more than 1,360 "favourites" and 2,169 shares as of Dec 7, when the plaintiff filed the notice of demand.

Anwar claims the defamatory statement was quoted by MalaysiaKini and published in an article on the portal titled "MB's aide to Muhyiddin: Anwar paid RM1 as S'gor economic adviser" on the same day (Dec 7).

He also claimed that on the following day (Dec 8), the whole speech at the rally was published or caused to be republished by Muhyiddin on his Facebook page under the name "Muhyiddin Yassin", and it received more than 42,000 views, 506 comments, more than 2,800 reactions and 48 shares as of

the date of the filing of the suit.

Anwar said the defamatory statement implied he was untrustworthy and dishonest regarding the receipt of millions of ringgit from the Selangor government as economic adviser and had lied to the public by stating that he had received only RM1 as salary for that role.

Anwar alleged the defamatory remarks were calculated to severely disparage and undermine his reputation and character, apart from damaging his good name and reputation as a firm supporter of the rule of law and social reforms.

"In making these remarks in his speech, it was clear the defendant had ill intentions by ignoring the official reply of former Selangor menteri besar Tan Sri (Abdul) Khalid

Ibrahim in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on March 27, 2012, where he had clearly stated that my salary as the state economic adviser was a symbolic RM1," he said in the statement of claim.

Anwar also claimed Muhyiddin was reluctant to apologise and retract the statement and in fact, had continued to publish it and did not remove it, although Anwar had denied the statement.

Anwar is seeking general, aggravated, exemplary and compensatory damages, among others, apart from an injunction to restrain him from continuing to publish or disseminate similar defamatory statements.

Anwar's lawyer Datuk S.N. Nair said the suit was filed at 10.30am yesterday.