

A-G: DR M TOLD OF SETTLEMENT TERMS

Ex-PM had asked why settlement terms in former A-G's suit were kept confidential

KUALA LUMPUR

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Tan Sri Idrus Harun yesterday said he had informed Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad of the terms of settlement of a lawsuit filed by Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali against the former prime minister and the government.

He said following the settlement, Apandi withdrew his suit on the termination of his contract as attorney-general.

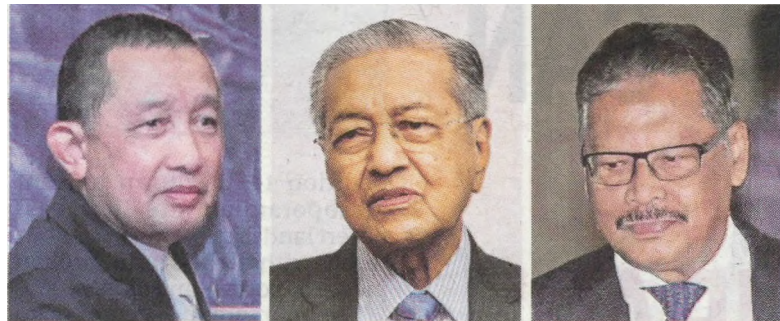
Idrus said the court then struck out the plaintiff's claim with no

liberty to file afresh.

"I can only confirm that Tun (Dr Mahathir) wrote recently seeking information on the terms of settlement. I had already replied to inform him of the terms of settlement," he told Bernama via WhatsApp when asked to comment on the matter.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir, in a Facebook post, expressed surprise and disagreement with the way the suit was settled out of court, claiming he was not told of the terms of settlement despite being the main witness in the case.

"I have written to the attorney-



(From left) Tan Sri Idrus Harun, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali

general. I feel that the government should not have given in as the termination of Mohamed Apandi's service was done according to procedures and with the power vested in the government.

"When I gave a statement to the

Attorney-General's Chambers in preparation for Mohamed Apandi's suit against me, I was told that the process of terminating the service was proper and in accordance with procedures and the Rule of Law."

The Langkawi member of parliament also questioned the need to pay compensation if Apandi's service had been terminated in accordance with the law.

He asked why the terms of settlement were kept confidential, saying the people had the right to know, especially since it involved compensation.

Dr Mahathir said he did not admit to any wrongdoing and was prepared to face Apandi in court.

On April 13, the High Court here struck out the suit after the government agreed to settle the case without any admission of liability, and the terms of settlement could not be disclosed publicly.

The court had initially fixed April 18, 20, 21 and 22 to hear the suit. **Bernama**