

Court grants Anwar injunction against Sanusi

> Interim order prohibits caretaker Kedah MB from issuing repeating and publishing defamatory statements

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has obtained an interim injunction from the Alor Setar High Court to prevent caretaker Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor from issuing, repeating and publishing defamatory statements against him on social media, websites and any other platforms.

Datuk S.N. Nair, representing Anwar, yesterday said Judge Mahazan Mat Taib allowed his ex-parte (one-sided) application filed on Sunday.

"The injunction was issued to prevent the

defendant, his staff or agents from repeating or publishing similar statements (against) the plaintiff, either directly or indirectly, in any of the defendant's social media channels, websites and any other platforms.

"The defendant is required to comply with the ex-parte injunction immediately after the delivery of the order to the defendant."

Anwar, 75, had applied for an injunction in his lawsuit against Muhammad Sanusi's alleged defamatory statements during the "Jelajah PN (Perikatan Nasional) Best Tambun" election campaign last year, Bernama reported.

Nair said Anwar, who is also PKR president and Pakatan Harapan chairman, applied for the injunction after Muhammad Sanusi repeated similar defamatory statements at two recent ceramah, allegedly insinuating that he was "immoral".

The talks were held at the "Jelajah PN Best Negeri Sembilan" in Nilai last March 18, and at the "Jelajah Selangor Baharu-Selayang" in Selayang, Selangor on July 11.

Nair said the injunction was served on

Muhammad Sanusi's lawyer at 12.30pm yesterday, adding that the defendant has been given a stern warning to comply with the terms of the injunction and would be subject to legal action if he fails to do so.

The suit was filed against Muhammad Sanusi, 48, on Dec 13 last year, over his speech during an election campaign in Negeri Sembilan accusing Anwar of immoral behaviour.

In his statement of claim, Anwar said the statements implied he had obtained a royal pardon through fraud, remained unforgiven and had deceived the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

He said they also implied he was a liar, untrustworthy, unethical and had betrayed the people's mandate, adding that they were made with malicious intent aimed at inciting the public and creating personal hatred towards him and Pakatan Harapan during campaigning for the 15th general election.

In his statement of defence, Muhammad Sanusi said he did not slander Anwar, but merely criticised him.