

'WHY IS DEAL WITH APANDI A SECRET?'

Dr M questions decision to classify terms of settlement in ex-A-G's suit under OSA

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FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is puzzled as to why the government had to classify the terms of settlement in the civil suit filed by former attorney-general (A-G) Tan Sri Apandi Ali under the Official Secrets Act.

In a posting on his Facebook

page, Dr Mahathir said he was mystified by the decision of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman to make a secret of the settlement on Apandi's demand for compensation for his dismissal.

"Apandi, the former A-G of the government of (Datuk Seri) Najib Tun Razak, made his demand publicly. He even named the amount at RM2,233,599.36. Yet

the compensation made by the government is a secret. Why? asked Dr Mahathir.

He said he had a reason to find out why because he did not think Apandi deserved to be compensated at all.

On Wednesday, Azalina said both parties had agreed to keep the negotiations and terms a secret.

"While settlement negotiations are ongoing, the plaintiff, represented by Tetuan Shukor Baljit and Partners, and the At-

torney-General's Chambers (AGC) agreed that terms of settlement were kept confidential and not disclosed to the public.

"In line with the agreement, all communication in regard with the negotiations and agreed settlement terms were classified as secret according to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act," Azalina said in a Parliamen-

tary written reply on Wednesday, when responding to M. Ku-

lasegaran (PH-Ipoh Barat), who asked the government to reveal the terms of settlement in the civil suit filed by Apandi.

On April 13 last year, it was reported that the suit filed by Apandi against Dr Mahathir and the government over the termination of his contract as A-G was settled out of court at the Kuala Lumpur High Court.

Apandi filed a suit on Oct 13, 2020, seeking a declaration that the termination of his contract as A-G by the former prime minister was unlawful. He named Dr Mahathir and the government as the first and second defendants, respectively.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad