

LETTER OF DEMAND

Anwar wants Pendang MP to apologise

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is demanding an apology from Pas' Pendang member of parliament (MP) Datuk Awang Hashim over the latter's claim that the current prime minister is more vindictive than Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Anwar urged Awang to retract his remarks and promise not to repeat such statement.

In his letter of demand, Anwar said he would not hesitate to drag Awang to court if such a statement was repeated.

Anwar was also seeking damages from Awang for tarnishing his reputation, giving the Pas politician three days to respond to the letter of demand.

In the letter filed by Messrs S. N. Nair & Partners, Anwar contended that Awang's remarks were malicious, untrue, defamatory and slanderous.

He said Awang's malicious statement had been reported by the Malaysiakini news portal in response to the corruption charges against Tasek Gelugor MP Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan.

It was reported that Wan Saiful had been hauled to court over alleged abuse of the Jana Wibawa funds meant for Bumiputera contractors.

Anwar claimed that Awang's remarks created the impression that he had abused his power as the prime minister and fi-

nance minister by interfering in law enforcement and prosecution institutions, of being unethical and betraying the people's mandate, unprincipled, vengeful, hypocritical and so on.

The firm also stressed that Anwar had never interfered with any jurisdiction of any law enforcement agency in Malaysia, thus he did not practice any selective prosecution as alleged by Awang.

"Our client has never instructed or interfered in the attorney-general's jurisdiction to execute or carry out any selective prosecution against any party as alleged by Awang.

"Both allegations were created by the YB either direct or indirectly against our client," read the letter of demand.

The firm stressed that Anwar respected and upheld the constitution and the rule of law and all the law enforcement and prosecution agencies acted freely.

The letter said any attempt to suggest otherwise was an act to throw a serious aspersion towards Anwar's reputation and integrity, both as a person and in his capacity as prime minister.

"Our client is also consistent in his stand in combating corruption and supporting the freedom of law enforcement and prosecution agencies towards good governance," the letter read.