

PM SEEKS RM200M, APOLOGY FROM MUHYIDDIN OVER FELDA DEBT ROW

PKR president claims reputation damaged over debt waiver claim as he responds to ex-PM's letter of demand

RAHMAT KHAIRULRIJAL
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has demanded RM200 million in compensation from Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for damaging his reputation over the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) settlers' debt waiver issue.

The PKR president, via his counsel S.N. Nair, said this through his reply to Muhyiddin's letter of demand yesterday.

Anwar also demanded an unconditional and unequivocal apology from the former prime minister, which must be published in the newspapers.

"We want your client (Muhyiddin) to retract his letter of demand and all defamatory state-



A Felda settler working on his plot in Hulu Selangor.
FILE PIC

ments published about this issue in general," said the letter.

The Tambun member of parliament gave his predecessor a 24-hour ultimatum for the latter to abide by all of his demands.

Yesterday, Anwar, who is also the finance minister, had demanded an apology from the Perikatan Nasional chairman over the latter's claim on the settlement of Felda's debts.

"I hereby attach part of the Assignment for Financial Service Reserve Account (FSRA) agreement in regard to the government guarantee for the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) that I have signed.

"Hence, I demand that

Muhyiddin apologise for the slander hurled against me," Anwar said in a statement.

Muhyiddin, however, reiterated that the "proof" released by Anwar was not a debt-waiver agreement for Felda settlers and instead, claimed that it was just an agreement on government-backed sukuk.

Muhyiddin said he would proceed to file a defamation suit against Anwar after the latter had failed to submit an unconditional and open apology as requested.

He said the Finance Ministry's

media release yesterday also confirmed that Anwar had signed off a government guarantee of RM9.9 billion, and not the settlement for Felda settlers' debts of RM8.3 billion as he had done while he was in power in 2021.

Muhyiddin insisted that he was responsible for executing the decision in 2021, and accused Anwar of lying to claim credit.

Anwar responded by saying Muhyiddin's administration had only agreed to the debt waiver, but never followed through with it, which was why he could still do it now. Anwar released docu-

ments to prove that he was the one who had signed the debt waiver scheme for Felda settlers.

The Finance Ministry confirmed that Anwar had signed the agreement on June 26.

"As per the announcement in a media statement issued by the ministry on June 28, the agree-

ment involves a government guarantee totalling RM9.9 billion for Felda via the issuance of sukuk and revolving credit for it to recover financially," said the ministry.



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin