

PAINTED NEGATIVE PICTURE

PM FILES DEFAMATION SUIT AGAINST PAS MP

Anwar: Awang's remarks were malicious, untrue, defamatory and slanderous

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has filed a defamation suit against Pas' Pendang member of parliament Datuk Awang Hashim over the latter's claim that he is more vindictive than former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Anwar filed the suit via Messrs S.N. Nair & Partners at the High Court and named Awang as the sole defendant yesterday. According to the statement of claim, Awang made the defam-



Datuk Awang Hashim

atory remarks at a press conference outside the Dewan Rakyat last week.

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 member of parliament Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan.

In his statement of claim, Anwar alleged that the impugned statement was baseless and untrue, and published in bad faith.

The Tambun member of parliament claimed that the statement also portrayed him as one who was not legitimately, lawfully and constitutionally appointed as prime minister.

He claimed that the statement painted a negative picture of the plaintiff that he did not command the confidence of the majority to be appointed as prime minister.

The PKR president is seeking general compensatory, aggravated and exemplary damages from the defendant.

He is also seeking a court injunction to restrain the defendant from further uttering, writing, publishing or distributing the impugned statement.

Last month, Anwar's lawyers sent a letter of demand to Awang insisting that the Pas man issue an apology for his statement'.