

DR M FILES RM150M SUIT AGAINST ANWAR

Dr M alleges that Anwar had defamed him by accusing him of being racist and enriching himself during his tenure as PM

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FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has filed a RM150 million defamation suit against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The former prime minister filed the suit through the Law Practice of Rafique at the Shah Alam High Court, with the current prime minister named as the sole defendant.

Dr Mahathir alleged that Anwar had defamed him by accusing him of being racist and enriching himself and his family members during his 22-year tenure as prime minister.

He claimed Anwar made the impugned statement in his speech during PKR's special national congress held at the Melawati Stadium in Shah Alam on March 18.

During the special congress, Anwar had referred to someone "who in the past had been in power for 22 years and an additional 22 months" as taking advantage of his position to enrich himself and his family.

Anwar, who did not specify any name during his speech at the party's special congress, also said this person had complained about the Malays losing everything when he was no longer in power.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

Dr Mahathir said he has never been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing involving power abuse or misuse of funds either during or after serving as prime minister.

"This fact is also known to the public, including the defendant, which clearly aims to discredit the plaintiff's name for no apparent reason.

"The plaintiff's image and reputation as a statesman or former prime minister have been tarnished among the general public as long as the defendant has not issued an apology.

"The sense of shame towards the plaintiff and his children or family members is caused by the defendant's statement and hinders the support or trust towards the plaintiff in terms of business opportunities and politics,"

claimed Dr Mahathir in his statement of claim.

He claimed that Anwar made impugned statements that were unfounded and only based on hearsay from the media.

"The defendant is the current prime minister, and it is important to ensure that every statement he made was based on facts and not just rumours or hearsay from the media.

"All of the plaintiff's income is audited to ensure that there is no deceit in the payment of taxes or the source of income.

"The defendant's statement is clearly baseless," Dr Mahathir claimed.

The 97-year-old politician is seeking RM100 million in exemplary damages and RM50 million in general damages.

He also demanded that the Pakatan Harapan chairman and PKR president issue a written apology and hold a special press conference to apologise for making such a statement.

High Court judicial commissioner Jamhirah Ali has fixed May 31 for case management.

On April 7, Anwar said he would provide evidence of Dr Mahathir exploiting his position to benefit himself and his family when the latter was in power.

FMT reports that one of Anwar's lawyers said the prime minister would "address decisively" all issues raised by Dr Mahathir in his suit.

Alliff Benjamin Suhaimi said his client's stand was the same as his response to Dr Mahathir's letter of demand in March.

Then, the same lawyer had said that Anwar would answer all the allegations in court.