

# ANWAR FILES DEFENCE IN RM150M SUIT AGAINST DR M

High Court fixes  
May 31 for the next  
case management,  
says lawyer

RAHMAT KHAIRULRIJAL  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has submitted his defence in the RM150 million defamation suit initiated by his predecessor, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Anwar's lawyer Aliff Benjamin Suhaimi confirmed that the PKR president, through law firm Thomas Philip, filed his defence at the High Court on Tuesday.

He said the court fixed May 31 for the next case management.

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

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

At the event, 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 the speech, said this person had complained about the Malays losing everything when he was no longer in power.

Dr Mahathir said he had 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 known to the public, including the defendant, which clearly aims to discredit the plaintiffs 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," Dr Mahathir said in his statement of claim.

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

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

general damages.

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



*"The sense of shame towards the plaintiff and his children or family members is caused by the defendant's statement..."*

**TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD**  
Former prime minister