

# DR M FAILS IN BID FOR DOCUMENTS

## Judge dismisses ex-PM's application for discovery of documents in lawsuit against Anwar

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad has failed to compel Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to provide documents linked to the RM150 million defamation lawsuit initiated by the former.

Counsel Rafique Rashid Ali, who represented the former prime minister, said Shah Alam High Court judge Zaharah Husain dismissed his client's application for discovery of docu-

ments yesterday.

Anwar, in his statement of defence, cited several decisions made by the former Gerakan Tanah Air chairman to justify why the suit should be thrown out.

The Pakatan Harapan chairman listed examples of decisions made by Dr Mahathir during his 22-year tenure as prime minister from 1981 to 2003, and again from 2018 to 2020 which protected business personalities closely linked to him.

Anwar said Dr Mahathir made decisions which encour-

aged cronyism in the country, especially during his first tenure as prime minister and finance minister.

He referred to the bailing out of Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd —

owned by Dr Mahathir's son Mirzan — by Petroliam Nasional Bhd and the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation in 1997.

Anwar also cited the awarding of a Telekom Malaysia Bhd contract worth RM214 million to Opcom Cables Sdn Bhd — a company that had Dr Mahathir's sons and daughter-in-law as directors.

Following this, Dr Mahathir asked the court to issue an order to compel Anwar to produce documents to support his allegations.

Rafique said the judge, in her decision, said Anwar's defence

pertained to an event or incident in the past, but without the presentation of any documents.

He said, however, that the court instructed Anwar's defence team to submit all documents related

to the allegations during the pre-trial, if they had any.

"The burden is still on Anwar to submit the documents."

Dr Mahathir alleged that Anwar 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 Malawati Stadium in Shah Alam on March 18.

During the event, Anwar 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 special congress, also said this person had complained about the Malays losing everything when he was no longer in power.

Dr Mahathir said he had never

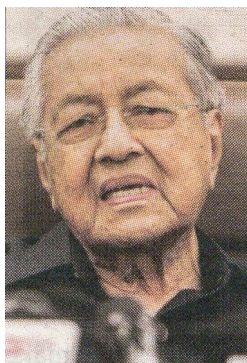
been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing involving abuse of power or misuse of funds either during or after serving as prime minister.

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

The 97-year-old politician is seeking RM100 million in ex-

emplary damages and RM50 million in general damages.

He also demanded that Anwar issue a written apology and hold a special press conference to apologise for making such a statement.



*Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad*



*Rafique Rashid Ali*