

## UEM AND RENONG TAKEOVER SUIT

# DR M, 2 OTHERS TOLD TO FILE DEFENCE BY OCT 6

**Tycoon Halim Saad given until Oct 23 to file reply to the defence**

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad and two other defendants have less than a month to file their arguments in the suit brought by tycoon Tan Sri Halim Saad over the government's takeover of United Engineers Malaysia (UEM) Bhd and Renong Bhd.

Federal counsel Imtiaz Aizni

Aufa Othman, who appeared for the former prime minister, former minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop and the government, said the court had also instructed the plaintiff (Halim) to file his reply to the defence before Oct 23.

"We must file our defence by Oct 6 and any interlocutory applications must also be filed by Nov 20.

"The court also fixed the same date (Nov 20) for the next case management," she said when contacted.

Halim filed the suit via Messrs Malik Imtiaz Sarwar at the High Court on Aug 2 and named Dr Mahathir, Nor Mohamed and the government as the defendants.

The 70-year-old businessman,

in his statement of claim, contended that the first and second defendants had acted on behalf of the government and were the prime movers in the compulsory acquisition and deprivation in 2001.

Halim claimed he intended to make a general offer on UEM either through Renong or jointly with Renong to take it private as a subsidiary of the company.

"The plaintiff was, however, directed by Dr Mahathir through Nor Mohamed not to proceed with the takeover as the government wanted to acquire all the shares in UEM through a designated entity, Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

"The plaintiff was also directed to exit both UEM and Renong, both as shareholder and director,



*Tan Sri Halim Saad is seeking a court declaration that he, not Umno Baru, was the beneficial and legal owner of Renong Bhd shares, FILE PIC*

including in subsidiaries of the said companies," claimed Halim.

He claimed this had required him to cede his control over Renong and UEM to the government and to eventually dispose his Renong shares at a loss.

The plaintiff claimed he complied with Dr Mahathir's directive as the latter was the then prime minister and finance minister.

Halim also claimed he was not compensated for the acquisition of UEM and the deprivation of his

rights as a controlling shareholder of Renong.

Halim is seeking a court declaration that he, not Umno Baru, was the beneficial and legal owner of Renong shares.

He is also seeking a declaration that the government was obliged to provide the plaintiff adequate compensation within the meaning of Article 13 of the FC.

Halim is also seeking compensation from the government, as well as exemplary and aggravated damages.