

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad showing copies of the identity cards obtained from the National Registration Department, at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday, NSTP PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH



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# DR MAHATHIR SHOWS OLD ICs, BIRTH CERTS

Former PM shows documents after testifying against Zahid in defamation suit

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday showed several documents, including old identity cards of himself, his wife, and four children, as well as their original birth certificates, to prove his real name.

The former prime minister showed the documents during a press conference after giving testimony in a defamation suit against Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi at the High Court.

Among the documents that were shown were his identity card, the identity cards of his four children, their original birth certificates and his birth registration documents.

He said all copies of the identity cards were obtained from the National Registration Department.

"These are the real identity

cards, not like the ones Zahid showed on his mobile phone. The previous identity card had the owner's name on the back."

"On a mobile phone, various images can be uploaded, and it cannot be accepted officially to verify its authenticity," he added.

Earlier during court proceedings, Dr Mahathir, in response to a question from his lawyer, Muhammad Rafique Rashid Ali, said his busy schedule managing the country as prime minister was among the reasons why the suit was not filed earlier.

"After becoming prime minister, I was busy with national affairs. Personal matters could be postponed, but national matters had to be prioritised.

"When Zahid filed the lawsuit, I felt it was something that could not be ignored. Therefore, I also decided to sue Zahid," he said.

"I also understand that there is no time limit to file this suit after the statement was made."

On why legal action was only taken against Zahid and not others who made similar statements, Dr Mahathir said Zahid's remarks had a greater impact because he was holding high positions at the time.

"Others did not hold high positions like Zahid. When he made that statement, he was the deputy prime minister and

deputy president of Umno, which provoked many reactions.

"Statements or writings by other individuals did not affect me if they were not important people. If that person was just selling peanuts, I wouldn't bother."

On July 20, 2022, Dr Mahathir, 99, filed the lawsuit naming Zahid, 71, as the defendant.

Dr Mahathir alleges that the defendant made false, defamatory, and malicious statements directly referring to him. The statements were made during the Kelana Jaya Umno division meeting on July 30, 2017.

Dr Mahathir believes that the individual referred to in the defamatory statement as "that person", "he", and "Mahathir son of Iskandar Kutty" clearly referred to him.

He claims Zahid's malicious statement exposed him to public hatred and damaged his standing as a statesman and respected political figure internationally.

Dr Mahathir said the statement also implied that his credibility to lead the country and the party prioritising Malays was being questioned. It painted him as a liar, untrustworthy, self-serving, unethical in holding public office, and unfit to be a leader.

Proceedings before Judicial Commissioner Gan Techiang will continue on Monday.