

Anwar and Muhyiddin drop defamation suits

KUALA LUMPUR: Both Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin have agreed to drop defamation suits against each other.

In a joint statement yesterday, the prime minister and former prime minister said the decision was made following the recommendations of the High Court judge and the current state of the nation, particularly the people's welfare.

"Both Anwar and Muhyiddin have agreed and decided to cease their personal dispute and the proceedings at the High Court.

"They also express their appreciation to the High Court judge and officials involved and hope that the decision will be accepted and respected by all parties.

"They have also agreed not to make further statements regarding the matter and hope that the issue will not be used to disrupt the nation's stability and confidence in the judiciary," the statement read.

The statement was published via the Facebook accounts of Anwar and Muhyiddin.

Meanwhile, an official spokesperson told the *New Straits Times* that the defamation suit was related to the dispute between the two on the settlement of Felda's debts and claims that Anwar was paid RM15 million while he was the economic adviser to Selangor

Muhyiddin, who is the Perikatan Nasional (PN) chairman in July last year had demanded an open and unconditional written apology from Anwar following the latter's claim that Felda settlers' debt totalling RM8.3 billion had never been waived during PN's administration.

Muhyiddin insisted that he had been responsible for executing a decision in 2021 and accused Anwar of lying to claim credit.

Anwar then responded by saying that Muhyiddin's administra-

tion had only agreed to the debt waiver, but never followed through with it.

He also released documents to prove that he was the one who had signed a debt waiver scheme for Felda settlers and demanded an apology from Muhyiddin over the latter's Felda claim.

Meanwhile, in December 2022, Anwar filed a defamation suit against Muhyiddin over the latter's statement during a PN *ceramah*, in which he claimed that Anwar had received RM15 million from the Selangor state government as its economic adviser.

Anwar in his suit had sought compensation for general and exemplary damages, as well as an injunction to restrain the defendant from further disclosing, composing or publishing similar statements against him.

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