

ALLEGED DEFAMATION

Ismail Sabri withdraws suit against news portal

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday withdrew his suit against Agenda Daily Media Enterprise's owner over an allegedly defamatory article published two years ago.

Ismail Sabri's lawyer, K. Ragu-nath, told High Court judge Datuk Aliza Sulaiman that his client had agreed to withdraw the suit with no order as to costs and no liberty to refile.

Lawyer Asiah Abd Jalil, representing defendant Muhamad Izwan Mohd Zubit, confirmed the matter.

Aliza dismissed the case and commended both parties for reaching a settlement.

"I thank both parties for achieving this resolution. The trial dates set for today and tomorrow are now vacated," she said.

Following the proceedings, Is-



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob shaking hands with Agenda Daily Media Enterprise owner Muhamad Izwan Mohd Zubit at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex yesterday, NSTP PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

mail Sabri and Izwan were seen shaking hands in the public gallery.

Ismail Sabri said it was unnecessary to proceed with the suit as issues regarding the prime minister and election had become moot.

He filed the suit in February 2022 in his personal capacity, claiming that an article published by Agenda Daily Media on Jan 30 of the same year contained malicious, defamatory and false statements about him.

The Bera member of parliament said the article allegedly portrayed him as desperate to retain his position as prime minister at any cost, even by appealing to political parties not to withdraw their support.

It also purportedly described his term as the shortest in the nation's history.

Izwan, in his defence, argued that the article was published with journalistic responsibility and denied any elements of defamation or malicious intent towards the plaintiff. **Bernama**