

**Nor Mohamed exempted from Kalimullah-Chang suit**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**December 27, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 — Yet another high-profile witness has avoided testifying for lawyer Matthias Chang, who is being sued for defamation by Datuk Seri Kalimullah Masheerul Hassan.

According to a Bernama Online report, the High Court here had on December 20 allowed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop (picture) to set aside a subpoena from Chang, who had called the former as a witness in the trial.

On December 2, the High Court had granted a similar exemption to Limkokwing University of Creative Technology founder Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing. Lim had also been summoned by Chang as a witness.

High Court judge Datuk Asmabi Mohamad is also due to decide on applications for exemptions from Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin and members of the Securities Commission who were subpoenaed by Chang.

On June 29, 2006, former New Straits Times Press Bhd deputy chairman Kalimullah filed the defamation suit after Chang allegedly made statements against him on June 13, 2006, at a press conference, a report of which was published in the Singapore Straits Times as written by its Malaysian correspondent, Leslie Lau. Lau is currently executive editor of The Malaysian Insider.

Kalimullah is asking for RM50 million in damages, costs, interests and an injunction to restrain Chang from publishing similar words in the future.

Chang, once a political secretary to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, also filed a counter-claim against Kalimullah on July 14, 2006, seeking RM150 million in damages.

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