

Blogger apologises for causing 'distress'
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Ahirudin to publish statement of settlement on his Rocky's Bru blog

KUALA LUMPUR: The defamation suit brought by four former New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad top executives against blogger Datuk Ahirudin Attan has been settled amicably.

In a statement of settlement tendered yesterday to the High Court by counsel for both parties, Ahirudin stated that he apologised for considerable distress, embarrassment and inconvenience caused to the four.

"I recognise, acknowledge and empathise with the considerable distress, embarrassment and inconvenience caused to the plaintiffs resulting from the publication of the statements."

In 2007, then NSTP deputy chairman Datuk Seri Kalimullah Masheerul Hassan, then group editor-in-chief Datuk Hishamuddin Aun, then director and chief executive officer Datuk Syed Faisal Syed Albar and then group editor Brendan John Pereira filed the suit against Ahirudin over defamatory postings in his blog.

According to the statement of settlement, which was made available to the media, Ahirudin also expressed his sincere and utmost regret for the consequences caused to the plaintiffs.

He withdrew all allegations and imputations against the four and agreed not to further publish any similar allegations on his blog, Rocky's Bru, or other blogs or websites.

Ahirudin was present in court yesterday with his lawyer, Datuk Jahaberdeen Mohamed Yunoos.

Counsel Rishwant Singh appeared for the four plaintiffs.

High Court judge Datuk Asmabi Mohamad made no order as to costs.

Jahaberdeen said his client was also required to publish the statement of settlement on his blog.

In the suit filed in January 2007, the plaintiffs alleged that Ahirudin caused to be published certain defamatory posts on his blog regarding the plaintiffs between June 8, 2006, and Dec 2, 2006.

They further alleged that the defamatory articles, which appeared on the blog, should be read alongside and when read as such, demonstrated a clear pattern of consistent and continuous conduct by the defendant to defame and injure the plaintiffs' personal and professional reputations, property, trade as well as goodwill.

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