

Anwar Withdraws Suit Against Mohd Saiful
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday withdrew a suit against his former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, for malice in lodging a police report that he was sodomised by him.

High Court judge Datuk Su Geok Yiam struck out the suit in chambers after the case came up for case management.

Counsel Ranjit Singh represented Anwar while Zamri Idrus acted for Mohd Saiful.

Ranjit told reporters that Anwar withdrew the suit on the basis that his reputation had been vindicated by his acquittal over his sodomy charge.

He said Anwar withdrew the suit with no liberty to file a fresh one. The judge also set Oct 9 to hear on the issue of legal costs.

On Jan 9, this year, the High Court acquitted and discharged Anwar of sodomising Mohd Saiful, 27, at a Desa Damansara condominium unit in Bukit Damansara here between 3.10pm and 4.30pm on June 26, 2008. Anwar, 65, was charged under Section 377B of the Penal Code, which carries a jail sentence of up to 20 years and whipping, upon conviction.

The Opposition leader filed the suit against Mohd Saiful on June 30, 2008, claiming that the latter lodged the police report with ulterior motives and also to damage his character as a politician.

In his statement of claim, he said Mohd Saiful knew that the sodomy charge was false but went ahead and lodged the police report on June 28, 2008.

Anwar claimed that as a result of the police report, his reputation was tarnished and he had undergone great suffering and embarrassment.

Mohd Saiful, in his statement of defence filed in May 2009, said the police report was justified and that if it was untrue, the prosecution would not have charged Anwar with sodomy.

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