

Anwar files RM100m suit against Utusan, TV3 over Lahad Datu charges
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 8 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today filed a defamation suit in the High Court here against daily Utusan Malaysia and television channel TV3 for accusing him of orchestrating the Lahad Datu stand-off.

Also named in the RM100 million suit were Utusan editor Datuk Abdul Aziz Ishak, TV3 group managing editor Datuk Shahrudin Abdul Latif and Buletin Utama editor Ing Boon Seng.

"The amount reflects how serious it is ... it depends on the stature of the victim and the wideness of the distribution (of the allegation)," Anwar's lawyer N. Surendran said. Anwar is also seeking for an immediate injunction of related articles and accusations.

The damages sought reflected the severity of the alleged defamation, lawyer N. Surendran said, given that it "involves national security".

"It depends on the stature of the victim and the wideness of the distribution (of the allegation)," he added.

Anwar is also seeking an immediate injunction against related articles and further accusations.

Utusan and TV3 had picked up a news report from the Philippine Daily Inquirer last Friday citing an allegation that an unnamed individual allied to Anwar had given the opposition's support to the Sulu rebels' claim on Sabah.

Utusan also cited a February 14 report from newswire Reuters, in which an anonymous Philippine military officer reportedly said a Malaysian opposition politician had invited the Sulu men to discuss land matters.

Lawyer Latheefa Koya said today that neither the Reuters nor the Philippine Daily Inquirer had specified Anwar as the individual involved.

On March 4, Anwar demanded that Utusan and TV3 apologise for their reports linking him to the Sulu militant incursion into Sabah.

Surendran said the Umno-linked media outlet have still not responded and continued to play up the accusations against Anwar.

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