

**PKR's Suit Against Najib On Election Spending: High Court Grants Interim Stay To Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- The High Court here has granted an interim stay to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor to file statements of defence to a suit by the opposition over alleged overspending in the 13th General Election campaign.

Lawyer Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun, who is representing Najib and Tengku Adnan told reporters that Judicial Commissioner Datuk Mohd Zaki Abdul Wahab granted the interim order until Oct 1.

The proceeding was held in chambers today.

"The ad interim stay is until Oct 1, wherein parties will have to appear before the judge again, to argue in full on the application filed by Najib and Tengku Adnan for a permanent stay to file any cause papers related to the suit until the final disposal of Najib and Tengku Adnan's application to strike out the suit by PKR.

"The High Court also maintained Oct 9 as case management date for other applications to be fixed for hearing. This includes the application by Najib and Tengku Adnan to strike out the suit, he said.

Mohd Hafarizam said that among the basis for the striking out of the suit were that Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) lacked locus standi to maintain this action, wrong person sued in relation to the case against the Barisan Nasional (BN) and that the civil court lacks jurisdiction over criminal matters.

He said in the statement of claim, the plaintiffs had claimed that Najib had received RM2.6 billion in his personal accounts, Najib acted corruptly and illegally and in breach of the laws.

Because of that, he said the allegation is under the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act and Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act (AMLA).

On Aug 12, PKR filed the suit against Najib for alleged violation of election laws in the general election.

The plaintiffs in the suit are de facto PKR leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is serving a jail sentence for a sodomy conviction, Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar, Batu MP Tian Chua, former PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Gerakan Harapan Baru (GHB) member Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

The defendants are Najib, Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan

Tengku Mansor, state investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and the Election Commission.

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