

**Ling to file defence in Najib suit by December 15**  
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The High Court has given former MCA president Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik an extension to file his statement of defence in a suit by Datuk Seri Najib Razak for defamatory statements against the prime minister.

Ling's lawyer, Gregory Ling, told reporters that the court gave Dr Ling until December 15 to file his defence statement and Najib had to reply by December 29.

He said both parties had agreed on the extension of time and Judge Datuk John Louis O'Hara had fixed January 11 for case management.

Lawyer Nor Emelia Mohd Iszham, representing Najib, said the last day for Dr Ling to file his statement of defence expired tomorrow and today the court gave him an extension.

On October 27, Najib sued Ling and sought an order for Ling to issue a written apology to be published in newspapers or magazines to be identified by Najib, in a form and terms determined by the prime minister.

In his statement of claim, Najib also sought an injunction to restrain Dr Ling, or through his servants or agents, from further speaking or publishing any defamatory article or any similar words defamatory to him.

He also sought general, special, aggravated and exemplary damages, costs and other relief deemed fit by the court.

Najib said Dr Ling had falsely and maliciously made slanderous statements against him while attending a ceremony at a university college here that were published in a news portal on October 3 through an article.

The prime minister said Dr Ling uttered the words with malice to put him in the position of public scandal, contempt and odium.

Najib said the words published in the article were understood to mean that he had misappropriated public funds into his personal account, that he had misused the funds for his personal interests, and he had misused the funds to gain wealth and profits for his personal gain and interests.

Najib said the remarks were baseless and without any basis or proof. – Bernama, November 25, 2015.

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