

Aug 25 case management for Najib, Rosmah's suit against Rafizi

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Najib and Rosmah claim Rafizi had made a disparaging statement against them at a forum on oil subsidies in 2014.

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here today set Aug 25 for case management of a defamation suit over oil subsidies filed by Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, against PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli and an online news portal owner.

Judicial commissioner Rohani Ismail set the date in chambers in the presence of lawyers Nor Emelia Iszham, who represented Najib and Rosmah; Ng Siau Sun, for Rafizi; and Joanne Leong who represented portal owner Chan Chee Kong.

Leong told reporters that Rohani had fixed the date to inform parties involved on the progress of an appeal application by Rafizi and Chan against a Court of Appeal decision striking out their defence of fair comment in the suit.

Yesterday, the Federal Court allowed an application for leave by Rafizi and Chan to appeal against the Court of Appeal's decision.

However, no date was fixed to hear the appeal.

On Nov 29 last year, the Court of Appeal allowed an application by Najib and Rosmah to strike out the defence of fair comment by Rafizi and Chan.

Najib and Rosmah filed the suit on April 16, 2015, claiming that Rafizi, who is also Pandan MP, had made a disparaging statement against them at a forum on oil subsidies in Bandar Tun Razak on Nov 22, 2014.

The couple also claimed Rafizi's speech was recorded and uploaded by Chan or his assistant on the portal's YouTube channel and website.

Najib and Rosmah further alleged that Chan had shared the recording on the portal's Facebook account which could be freely accessed by Internet users worldwide.

The couple is seeking general, aggravated and exemplary damages deemed fit by the court, as well as interest and costs.

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