

Mukhriz's appeal to cite Najib for contempt fixed for Feb 20
Malaysia Kini.com
9 Februari 2018

The Court of Appeal has today fixed Feb 20 to hear Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia deputy president Mukhriz Mahathir's appeal against the dismissal of his bid to cite Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak for contempt.

This was decided during case management today. Lawyer Ilyani Khuszairi told *Malaysiakini* both parties have already submitted their written submissions regarding the case.

"I appeared on behalf of Mukhriz and mentioned on Najib's behalf today as submissions for the case have been filed. The court fixed Feb 20 to hear the appeal," she said.

Mukhriz at the start of his defamation suit against Najib's aide Tengku Sariffuddin Tengku Ahmad had filed contempt proceedings against the PM, following a statement issued on his (Najib's) blog six days before the trial.

The former Kedah menteri besar complained the statement was similar to the third and fourth press statements issued by Tengku Sariffuddin (*below*), the subject matter of the trial and said it was to exert pressure on the court.

Najib had in the statement **warned** that Mahathir's quest to unseat him cannot be allowed to succeed or the former premier may even demand the future resignation of future prime ministers.

However, Kuala Lumpur High Court judge Justice Ahmad Zaidi Ibrahim **dismissed** Mukhriz's application on July 27 and refused to grant leave to cite Najib for contempt as he ruled there was nothing mentioned or referred in the press statements to any court hearing.

"The conclusion by the public at large who read it is not directed to pressure the court to make a decision in this case either for or against the interest of any party," he said.

"There is no statement to direct or exert pressure on the court and what is said is not related to the case.

"Hence, there is no "prima facie" case that the statement made by Najib in his blog refers to this case or puts pressure on the court.

"Hence, the court regrettably does not grant leave for the plaintiff to initiate a committal proceeding," Justice Ahmad Zaidi ruled.

Mukhriz is also citing Deputy Transport Minister Abdul Aziz Kaprawi for contempt where a hearing date for this has yet to be fixed.

The suit against Tengku Sariffuddin was filed on May 3 last year, over four press statements issued that year.

Mukhriz argued that the defamatory statements had suggested that he, together with other Bersatu leaders, had conspired to topple a legitimately elected government.

Tengku Sariffuddin's defence statement argued that he had not defamed Mukhriz but had instead issued statements to counter unjust accusations levelled against the prime minister.

© 1999-2018 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <https://www.malysiakini.com/news/411682>