

Kalimullah sues Dr M's former aide for defamation

KUALA LUMPUR: New Straits Times Press deputy chairman Datuk Kalimullah Hassan has filed a RM50mil suit against lawyer Matthias Chang for defamation.

He is seeking damages resulting from Chang's statements made against him at a news conference on June 13.

In the writ filed at the High Court here last Thursday, he also sought an injunction to restrain Chang, a former political secretary to former prime

minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, from repeating the statements.

The suit was served on Chang yesterday.

"We filed the writ on June 29 that Matthias Chang, his servants or agents be restrained and an interim injunction be issued to restrain Matthias Chang, whether by himself or through his servants or agents, from uttering or publishing, or causing to be uttered or published the statements that were

made at his press conference on June 13," Kalimullah's counsel Prakash Menon said.

He said the injunction was granted by Justice Datuk Kang Hwee Gee in chambers yesterday.

The court has fixed July 25 to hear the interim injunction application.

Meanwhile, *The Straits Times* of Singapore published an apology to Kalimullah yesterday over an article in the newspaper last month, which con-

tained Chang's statements.

The article, entitled *Mahathir loyalist blasts Abdullah's supporters*, was published on June 14.

"The assertions were made by Mr Matthias Chang at a press conference called by him (Chang) on 13 June, 2006, and were accurately reported by us in the article," the paper said.

"We wish to clarify that we do not in any way endorse or confirm the assertions made against Datuk Kalimullah.

We further acknowledge that we have no basis to make the assertions," Singapore Press Holdings Ltd, the publisher of the newspaper, said in the apology.

"We unreservedly apologise to Datuk Kalimullah for any distress, embarrassment and injury he has suffered on account of the article. We undertake not to make further assertions against Datuk Kalimullah to the same or similar effect." — Bernama

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