

APANDI'S DAUGHTER DISMISSES RECUSAL BID

No evidence of any continuing ties between my father and Najib, says JC Arziah

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HIGH Court judicial commissioner Arziah Mohamed Apandi yesterday dismissed Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad's bid to recuse her from hearing his RM5 million libel suit against former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

She ruled that Dzulkefly, who is the health minister, had failed to establish any real danger of bias on her statements made during two case managements and because she is the daughter of former attorney-general Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali.

Arziah said the familial relationship did not create a real danger of bias.

She said the fact that she is the daughter of a former A-G did not establish bias, stating that there were several determinative factors of lack of direct connection, remote connection and professional independence.

"The relationship is between my father and the defendant (Najib), not between myself and any party.

"There is no evidence of any continuing relationship between my father and the defendant be-



Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad

yond a brief court appearance as a witness in 2019.

"My father ceased to hold the Attorney-General's Chambers office since 2018, which is seven years ago.

"Any connection to this litigation is tenuous and historical.

"Familial connections between members of the judiciary and the legal professionals are common and do not automatically give rise to bias.

"Children of judges regularly appear before courts without raising concerns.

"Familiar relationships alone, absent evidence of actual bias or circumstances creating a real danger thereof, are insufficient for a recusal."

She also found that the timing

of the recusal application, filed on April 14, undermined its credibility and no evidence existed on actual bias and circumstances that would lead a reasonable observer to conclude bias exists.

On her statements during case management on March 7 and April 7, Arziah said context was crucial as the suit had been pending for over three years since filing, multiple trial dates had been vacated and both parties informed the court of potential settlement.

"My directions were procedural, aimed at ensuring orderly case management.

"The statement that the matter would be struck off if no settlement was reached and no notice of withdrawal filed was a reasonable case management direction, not an expression of bias against any party."

Arziah dismissed the application with cost to be determined at the end of the suit.

Dzulkefly's lawyer, Stanley Sabastien Sinnappen, said he would wait for instructions from his client on appeal.

Lawyer Muhammad Farhan Muhammad Shafee acted for Najib.

The court set Aug 13 for case management.

In March, Farhan had said Dzulkefly and Najib were working towards an out-of-court resolution.

In January 2022, Dzulkefly had filed the suit over a Facebook post that Najib made on Aug 24, 2020 about cronyism.

The post included a screenshot of a Malay daily *Sinar Harian* article dated Jan 28, 2019, featuring the plaintiff's picture.

The Star 158 Nasion 30/7/2025 (Rabu)

RM595mil spent on treating IJN patients

SOME RM595mil was spent treating patients at the National Heart Institute (IJN) last year, with the bulk comprising government pensioners, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Of the 44,257 patients treated there last year, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (pic) said 26,782 were pensioners with treatment amounting to RM358mil.

Some 16,303 patients treated last year were civil servants whose treatment amounted to RM200mil, while the remaining 1,172 comprised patients from low-income backgrounds with treatment coming to RM37mil.

"This shows that the government continues to fund pensioners as well as patients from

low-income groups requiring treatment only available at IJN," Dr Dzulkefly said in a written reply yesterday.

He explained that treatment at IJN can be considered if the patient has received prior treatment at a government hospital and was later referred by either a government hospital general physician, cardiologist or emergency specialist.

"In emergencies, pensioners and civil servants can seek treatment at private hospitals, including IJN, subject to guidelines stated in related circulars.

"For patients from low-income backgrounds, government subsi-



dies are subject to a socioeconomic evaluation by Health Ministry officers."

Dr Dzulkefly was responding to a question by Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (BN-Bera), who asked if IJN still has a welfare fund to assist underprivileged patients.

Separately, the Health Minister said some 157,285 medical staff served at Health Ministry facilities nationwide as of March 31 this year.

This comprised 38,955 medical officers (69,890 nurses, 19,885 assistant medical officers, 12,899 pharmacists, 8,635 specialists and 7,021 dental officers).

Of the total, 135,108 were employed as permanent staff while the remaining 22,195 were on contract.

Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry and federal agencies are also conducting an intake of 27,724 medical officers, nurses, assistant medical officers, pharmacists, specialists and dental officers, in stages.

In a written reply to Zahari Kechik (IND-Jeli) who asked about the number of healthcare workers currently in service, Dr Dzulkefly said there is currently one doctor, including specialist, for every 46 people; one dental officer for every 2,343 people; one pharmacist for every 1,626 people; one nurse for every 282 people and one assistant medical officer for every 1,326 people.



DR. DZULKEFLY Ahmad di Persidangan Dewan Rakyat, Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - JABATAN PENERANGAN MALAYSIA

RM595 juta kos rawatan 44,247 pesakit di IJN

Oleh MOHAMAD HAFIZ YUSOFF BAKRI dan FATIN NORIZATI MAT ISA
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KUALA LUMPUR: Seramai 44,247 orang telah mendapatkan rawatan di Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) pada tahun lalu dan kerajaan membelanjakan hampir RM600 juta untuk tujuan tersebut.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 26,782 merupakan pesara, sementara 16,303 pesakit lagi pegawai kerajaan dan 1,172 merupakan pesakit kurang mampu.

"Jumlah keseluruhan kos rawatan yang ditanggung kerajaan bagi tahun ini adalah sebanyak RM595 juta yang merangkumi RM358 juta untuk pesara, RM200 juta bagi kakitangan kerajaan dan RM37 juta bagi pesakit kurang mampu," katanya

dalam jawapan bertulis di Parlimen, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (BN-Bera) yang ingin mengetahui sama ada IJNSB masih mempunyai Tabung Kebajikan untuk membantu pesakit miskin kerana difahamkan tabung tersebut telah dimansuhkan serta sebab kerajaan tidak lagi membiayai rawatan pesara kerajaan di IJN.

Dzulkefly berkata, terdapat tiga kategori pesakit tanggungan Kerajaan Persekutuan yang mendapat rawatan di IJNSB iaitu pegawai perkhidmatan awam Persekutuan, pesara awam Persekutuan dan pesakit kurang mampu.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan masih menanggung kos rawatan pesara Persekutuan dan pesakit kurang mampu yang dirujuk ke IJNSB bagi mendapatkan rawatan yang tidak disediakan di hospital kerajaan.

um m/s T D/Negeri 30/7/2025 (Rabu)

Haram vape: Hasil kurang tetapi jimat kos kesihatan

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PETALING JAYA: Pengharaman sepenuhnya penjualan dan penggunaan rokok elektronik atau vape dijangka mengurangkan kutipan hasil cukai kerajaan, namun ia juga dilihat mampu memberi penjimatan besar terhadap kos penjagaan kesihatan negara dalam jangka masa panjang.

Pensyarah Kanan Fakulti Perniagaan dan Pengurusan Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Dr. Mohamad Idham Md. Razak berkata, meskipun larangan penjualan vape memberi implikasi langsung kepada pendapatan negara, impaknya dilihat lebih kecil berbanding beban kewangan yang ditanggung kerajaan bagi merawat penyakit akibat penggunaannya.

Katanya, kajian terdahulu membuktikan kos merawat penyakit akibat penggunaan vape dan tembakau lazimnya melebihi hasil cukai yang diperoleh daripada produk berkenaan.

“Kerugian hasil cukai daripada industri vape mungkin tidak signifikan jika dibandingkan dengan kos penjagaan kesihatan jangka panjang.

“Kerajaan boleh menampung kehilangan pendapatan ini dengan meningkatkan cukai sektor lain atau menyalurkan semula perbelanjaan kesihatan ke arah program pencegahan yang lebih berkesan,” katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Semalam, akhbar ini melaporkan, kerajaan sedang mengkaji untuk mengharamkan penjualan dan penggunaan rokok elektronik atau vape di seluruh negara sebagai langkah menjaga kesihatan awam dan melindungi golongan re-

maja serta kanak-kanak.

Mengulas mengenai kesannya terhadap peniaga, Idham berkata, golongan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) yang bergantung sepenuhnya kepada jualan produk vape bakal berdepan risiko muflis atau pengangguran.

Katanya, meskipun langkah pengharaman dibuat atas dasar kesihatan awam, kebajikan peniaga tetap perlu diberi perhatian agar mereka tidak tercicir daripada arus pembangunan ekonomi negara.

“Kerajaan boleh menyediakan insentif seperti bantuan modal, latihan kemahiran semula atau galakan untuk beralih ke industri lain yang lebih mampan. Langkah ini lebih selari dengan matlamat jangka panjang untuk melindungi kesihatan awam tanpa mengabaikan kebajikan peniaga,” katanya.

Doctors fight medicine price rule

Applicants challenge order over harm to small businesses, demanding revocation

By RAGANANTHINI
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PETALING JAYA: The medicine price display rule has been challenged in court by several doctors who want the order to be quashed.

The doctors filed for a judicial review, saying the rule hurts small clinics and was introduced without proper consultation.

They want the rule, which took effect on May 1, to be revoked.

The lawsuit named the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister, Health Minister and the Federal Government as the first, second and third respondents, respectively.

The applicants are the Association of Private Practitioners, Sabah (APPS), the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), the Malaysian Association for the Advancement of Functional and Interdisciplinary Medicine (Maafim), the Organisation of Malaysian Muslim Doctors (Perdim), the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations Malaysia (FPMPAM), the Malaysian Private Dental Practitioners' Association



Market imbalance: Doctors say unfair pharma competition harms clinics.

(MPDPA), the Society of Private Medical Practitioners Sarawak (SPMPS), and one Dr Saifulbahri Ahmad.

The lawsuit was in relation to the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering (Price Marking for Drug) Order 2025 (ministry's order), which came into effect on May 1.

The medical practitioners are seeking an order of certiorari to

quash the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry's Price Control and Anti-Profitteering (Price Marking for Drug) Order 2025 (ministry's order).

According to the statement of claim of the suit filed on July 24, they are also seeking a declaration that the ministry's order was void and tainted with illegality, irrationality, unreasonableness,

disproportionality and impropriety.

They asked that the enforcement of the ministry's order "insofar as its application to private healthcare facilities and/or registered medical practitioners and dentists" be stayed until the judicial review case is over.

Among the grounds for the judicial review is the failure of the government to recognise the difference between drugs sold in retail and drugs administered for treatment purposes.

It added that the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister had breached principles of natural justice by arriving at the decision without consulting registered medical practitioners represented by the MMA.

They said that while the purpose of the regulation was to curb profiteering activities, it has created unwarranted competition among providers of drugs, with the singular denominator purely being the price of drugs.

"This means even small-scale community clinics operated by general practitioners (GPs) and specialists have to now compete with large-scale drug retailers, for example, international chain

pharmacies who already enjoy a larger market control and the ability to gain further control of retail customers by selling drugs at a much lower price," they said.

They added that small-scale community clinics would be at a disadvantage if forced to enter into an unwarranted competition with large-scale pharmaceutical companies.

They said drug prices in clinics are determined by variables such as manufacturers; freight charges; export or import duties; importers; distributors; volume purchased; location of the clinics; different formulations of the same product; provisions for wastage of expired unused drugs; and staff and administrative expenses.

The price display rule was met with much resistance by private healthcare practitioners.

A three-month grace period from May 1 has also been given, where no compounds would be issued and the government would instead focus on advocacy and education.

According to the court's website, the suit is set for case management at the Kuala Lumpur High Court on Aug 22.

The Star M/s 5 Nation 30/7/2025 (Rabu)

More bite against poison through enhanced enforcement

PETALING JAYA: The broader enforcement powers under the amended Poisons Act (Act 366) will enable effective enforcement against offences related to the misuse of poisons and psychotropic substances, say two ministries.

The Health and Home ministries said under the amendment, which was passed in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday, all police officers, regardless of rank, and those appointed by the Health Ministry would be given enforcement powers to handle poisons, including drugs and psychotropic substances.

Under the existing Act, enforcement powers were limited to drug enforcement officers, including pharmacists, police officers

with the rank of inspector and above, and senior Customs officers.

Act 366 governs the aspects of the use, possession and distribution of poisons and psychotropic substances in Malaysia.

"This amendment aims to increase the effectiveness of enforcement against offences of misuse of poisons and psychotropic substances as well as to ensure actions that are faster, comprehensive and more responsive in addressing threats to public health and national security," they said in a joint statement yesterday.

The ministries noted that patrolling and inspection were usually carried out by lower-ranking police officers such as constables and corporals.

"Therefore, the expansion of powers of the police force regardless of rank will enhance the efficiency and reach of enforcement operations.

"In addition, there are areas that do not have the permanent presence of authorised officers under this Act.

"To close this gap, the law also provides power to the Health Minister to appoint other officers, subject to terms and conditions, to assist in the enforcement when necessary," they said.

The ministries said the amendment showed the government's continuous commitment, especially the Health Ministry, to address the misuse of controlled substances through a stronger,

more inclusive, and more comprehensive enforcement approach.

"It is also in line with the aspirations of Madani values, namely sustainability and well-being – in order to protect the well-being of the people and the security of the nation," they said.

The Bill was passed by a voice vote after being debated by 12 MPs from both the government and opposition blocs.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) recently voiced strong concern about the amendment and urged the government to halt its progress in Parliament until proper engagement was conducted with stakeholders in the healthcare sector.

Its president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira said the association and other medical professional bodies were deeply concerned that the Bill was tabled without prior consultation with key stakeholders, including the MMA.

Dr Kalwinder said the language of the Bill was overly broad and raised red flags regarding enforcement powers and the implications for private healthcare services.

He pointed specifically to Clause 2, which designates all police officers as authorised officers under the Act, and the proposed Section 31A, which grants the Health Minister power to appoint "any person" without specifying qualifications.

The Star m/s 5 Nation 30/7/2025 (Rabu)

Amal 'pembersihan digital' layari media sosial demi kesihatan mental

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Selama ini pengguna media sosial mungkin berasa mempunyai kuasa menentukan kandungan muncul di media sosial melalui *like*, *subscribe* dan *follow*.

Pengguna mengikuti akaun disukai, menonton kandungan selari dengan minat serta melakukannya mengikut keselesaan sendiri.

Sebaliknya, apa yang terpapar di media sosial tidak sepenuhnya berdasarkan pilihan semata-mata. Ia sebenarnya ditentukan algoritma, iaitu sistem pintar merancang, menyusun dan menapis kandungan mengikut corak tingkah laku.

Algoritma ini memerhati setiap interaksi pengguna media sosial, memahami bentuk kandungan kesukaan, jangka masa tontonan sesuatu video, siapa diikuti dan kandungan kerap diklik atau dikongsi.

Berdasarkan data ini, algoritma mencadangkan lebih banyak kandungan serupa. Masalahnya, algoritma tidak mampu membezakan antara rasa ingin tahu dan minat sebenar pengguna media sosial.

Cukup hanya sekali pengguna media sosial berhenti seketika pada suatu tajuk atau video sensasi, akan terus dihujani dengan kandungan serupa.

Tanpa sedar, pengguna media sosial mungkin terjerumus ke dalam 'gelembung digital' yang penuh dengan permainan emosi, provokasi dan ketoksikan.

Inilah punca mengapa ramai pengguna media sosial hari ini berasa letih, mudah marah dan cepat hilang fokus selepas melayari aplikasi kegemaran yang membawa pada satu tahap ketagihan.

Kandungan beremosi tinggi seperti kemarahan,

ketakutan atau kontroversi mendapat perhatian lebih kerana ia meningkatkan masa tontonan dan kadar interaksi.

Secara tidak langsung pengguna berdepan dengan kebergantungan emosi digital kerana penaklukan algoritma ini. Ia berlaku bukan kerana pengguna media sosial menyukai sesuatu kandungan negatif, tetapi kerana sistem algoritma dibina untuk menyajikannya.

Guna media sosial secara sedar, sihat

Di sinilah pentingnya 'pembersihan digital' iaitu amalan penggunaan media sosial secara sedar dan sihat. Sama seperti kita menjaga kebersihan diri untuk kesihatan fizikal, kebersihan digital membantu kita menjaga kesihatan mental dan emosi.

Pembersihan digital dimulakan dengan menyedari bagaimana media sosial mempengaruhi emo-

si, masa dan fikiran kita, yang mana rata-rata corak dan tabiat penggunaan adalah berbeza.

Justeru, pengguna media sosial perlu mengelak daripada melayan kandungan mengganggu emosi. Gunakan butang *mute* atau *hide* akaun tertentu, tandakan 'tidak minat', susun semula siapa mahu dilihat di paparan suapan (*feed*) atau hadkan notifikasi diterima.

Ramai pengguna media sosial tidak tahu atau tidak mengambil peluang ini. Inilah alat kawalan jauh dalam dunia digital yang hebat.

Aspek penting lain dalam menjaga kebersihan digital adalah menetapkan had masa. Media sosial tidak akan pernah habis menyajikan naratif mengikut cita rasa difahami medium ini.

Elakkan menjadikan media sosial sebagai perkara pertama dilihat selepas bangun tidur atau sebelum tidur. Tabiat ini kelihatan kecil, tetapi kesannya besar terhadap fokus, kesejahteraan mental dan ketenangan fikiran.

Pengguna media sosial digalakkan menyusun semula siapa dan apa yang mereka ikuti. Ikuti akaun memberi ilmu, inspirasi atau kepelbagaian perspektif. Jangan terperangkap dengan hanya satu jenis kandungan.

Media sosial adalah satu platform perniagaan dengan matlamat utamanya ialah meraih keuntungan, bukan kesejahteraan pengguna. Mereka menjana pendapatan dengan menjual perhatian pengguna kepada pengiklan mengikut suapan kandungan.

Mulakan dengan memilih bentuk kandungan, siapa ingin diikuti dan keperluan untuk berehat dari media sosial. Sedikit demi sedikit, kita akan dapati pengalaman media sosial menjadi lebih seimbang, tenang, sihat dan bermakna.

“Media sosial adalah satu platform perniagaan dengan matlamat utamanya ialah meraih keuntungan, bukan kesejahteraan pengguna”

UM M/s 1 M/Depan 30/7/2025 (Rabu)

Cuaca panas terburuk, cecah 45 darjah Celcius

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KANGAR: Malaysia mencatatkan suhu ekstrem mencecah 40 hingga 45 darjah Celsius, selari dengan tren peningkatan suhu purata tahunan sebanyak +0.17 darjah Celsius setiap dekad sejak 1969, sekali gus menjadikan tahun 2025 sebagai tahun paling panas dalam sejarah moden negara.

Kesannya, sehingga minggu ketiga bulan ini, lebih 300 kes keletihan haba dilaporkan terutama dalam kalangan kanak-kanak dan warga emas malah risiko strok haba juga semakin meningkat di kalangan pekerja luar seperti buruh binaan, petani dan askar.

Bersambung di muka 2



Panas melampau

CUACA panas direkodkan mencecah 40.1 darjah Celsius sekitar pukul 2 petang pada pengukur suhu di bulatan Chuping, Perlis, kelmarin. Jika berterusan tanpa hujan, peningkatan suhu panas melampau ini bakal menjejaskan industri akuakultur dan sektor pertanian di Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan dan Lembah Klang. - UTUSAN/IZLIZAN OTHMAN

Cuaca panas terburuk, cecah 45 darjah Celcius

Dari muka 1

Pensyarah Fakulti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Awam Universiti Malaysia Perlis (Unimap), Prof. Madya Dr. Norazian Mohamed Noor berkata, musim Monsun Barat Daya yang kering dan kekurangan hujan serta diperkuat oleh fenomena El Nino dan kesan jangka panjang pemanasan global menjadi punca utama peningkatan suhu ini yang dijangka berterusan sehingga September.

Katanya, memburukkan keadaan apabila cuaca panas tanpa hujan yang dikesan sejak awal bulan ini menyebabkan paras empangan utama seperti empangan Muda dan Pedu di Kedah dilaporkan turun di bawah 55 peratus kapasiti.

Ujarnya, sekiranya cuaca kering itu berterusan, bekalan air dijangka mampu bertahan antara 30 sehingga 45 hari, manakala tasik-tasik kecil dan parit ladang pula mula kering, menjejaskan pengairan.

"Ia turut menjejaskan sektor pertanian apabila padi, sayur-sayuran dan buah-buahan tropika seperti durian dan rambutan mengalami tekanan air. Hasil padi di kawasan MADA Kedah antaranya dijangka susut 20 ke 30 peratus. Selain itu, industri akuakultur juga dijangka terjejas iaitu suhu tinggi menyebabkan kematian ikan dalam kolam dan penurunan kualiti air.

"Laporan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dan pakar iklim antarabangsa menunjukkan tren kenaikan suhu purata tahunan sebanyak +0.17 darjah celsius setiap dekad sejak 56 tahun itu menjadikan tahun ini sebagai paling panas dalam sejarah moden.

"Menurut laporan ASEAN Climate Outlook Forum, Malaysia merupakan antara negara



PELAJAR sebuah universiti menggunakan payung bagi melindungi daripada panas yang melampau di Kangar, Perlis, kelmarin.

- UTUSAN/IZLIZAN OTHMAN

tropika di rantau ini yang terjejas teruk akibat perubahan iklim dan gelombang haba," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini semalam.

Dalam tinjauan semalam, indeks haba di Perlis dan Kedah antaranya mencecah 43-45 darjah Celsius pada pukul 1 tengah hari, antara angka paling tinggi dicatatkan sepanjang minggu ini.

Meskipun keadaan panas tersebut tidak seteruk negara-negara seperti India atau Asia Barat, namun impak terhadap sektor bekalan air, keselamatan makanan dan kesihatan awam di Malaysia adalah signifikan.

Katanya lagi, perubahan tersebut sebenarnya tidak lagi bersifat bermusim atau terpencil tetapi semakin kerap dan ia memberi kesan berskala besar dalam tempoh singkat.

"Justeru, pemantauan iklim dan pelan pengurusan risiko iklim perlu dipertingkatkan di semua peringkat, daripada perancangan kerajaan hingga ke tahap komuniti tempatan," katanya.

Katanya beliau, dalam ber-

depan cuaca panas melampau itu, orang ramai disaran untuk mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga seperti minum air secukupnya iaitu sekurang-kurangnya dua liter sehari serta mengelakkan aktiviti luar antara pukul 11 pagi sehingga 4 petang.

Antara lain katanya, memakai pakaian ringan dan pelindung cahaya matahari serta kekal berada di ruang yang sejuk dan berventilasi baik.

"Mereka juga dinasihatkan untuk memantau laporan cuaca dan indeks haba yang dikeluarkan oleh MetMalaysia serta mengelakkan sebarang pembakaran terbuka yang boleh mencestuskan kebakaran dan jerebu.

"Dalam jangka panjang, masyarakat perlu menyokong usaha penanaman pokok, pengurangan permukaan konkrit dan amalan kelestarian bagi mengurangkan kesan gelombang haba dan pemanasan bandar.

"Fenomena ini adalah peringatan jelas bahawa perubahan iklim bukan lagi ancaman masa depan tetapi realiti sedang kita hadapi hari ini," katanya.