

Financial adviser sued

Real-estate developer goes to court over FB post alleging scam

By QISHIN TARIQ
qishin.tariq@thestar.com.my

SHAH ALAM: A real-estate developer has taken a financial adviser to court over an alleged Facebook post that suggested the company was a scam.

Alfa Development and Construction Sdn Bhd and its director Norsham Abd Aziz demanded that Afyan Mat Rawi stop posting about the company and reveal the source he quoted in his post.

The post was a screen capture of an alleged conversation between Afyan and the source who claims to be a bank employee with access to the account information of Alfa Bhd.

The source claimed that the company has several accounts with the

bank and suggested that it was a "hit and run" company because the accounts contain little money.

In his affidavit, Norsham claimed to have been alerted to the post by one of his customers, Badrul Hisham.

He said the post could damage his and his company's credibility and demanded that the source be named because his private banking information had been leaked.

Norsham also lodged a police report against Afyan on March 8, saying that the Facebook post amounted to a banking offence.

In an application filed on Thursday to strike out the suit, Afyan said the post did not refer to a specific company named Alfa.

To prove his point, he submitted a search of the Companies

Commission database, which showed there were 19 companies and 27 businesses with the same name.

Afyan also claimed that the information from Badrul was hearsay, as Norsham failed to disclose any information about him beyond claiming that Badrul had bought a bungalow from the company.

He submitted that the suit should be directed to the impugning bank, not him, as he did not have any documents on Alfa's banking information.

As a financial adviser, Afyan claimed, he has qualified privilege to comment on and question investment schemes if he doubted their legality or legitimacy.

He cited Article 10 of the Federal Constitution, saying that Norsham's

injunction amounted to a violation of his freedom of speech.

"Consumers and the public should not be blocked from discussing issues involving investment schemes and scams," he said in his affidavit.

Deputy registrar Sazlinidayu Kamarul Bahrain fixed Sept 29 for both parties to submit and exchange written submissions.

The case was set to be heard before High Court judge Justice Azimah Omar.

Norsham and Alfa were represented by Rahman Othman.

Afyan was represented by Muhammad Akram Abdul Aziz and Hizri Hussain and property law association HartaGuam president Salkukhairi Abd Sukor held a watching brief.

Perlis reaffirms stand against planting of ketum trees

ARAU: The Perlis state government has reaffirmed its stand to prohibit private landowners from planting ketum trees in the state.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man said any landowners, especially those with newly-acquired land titles, would face possible revocation of the title if ketum trees were planted on the land.

"The state government views seriously the issue of ketum tree

planting, and is of the opinion that the plant brings more harm than good, especially (ketum juice) addiction among the young people in the state, including students.

"Therefore, any claims that the state government intends to allow the cultivation of the plant by not taking decisive measures on this matter should not arise," said Azlan.

He said this to reporters after the

'Kembara Seindah Syawal 2016' programme organised by the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) at the Pauh state assemblyman's service centre here yesterday.

Azlan was clarifying the matter after some misunderstanding about his previous statement regarding the planting of ketum trees, which became a hot topic of discussion on social media.

"It was said that traditionally ketum leaves were used to treat a number of diseases such as diarrhoea, but today, it has been widely misused, causing those consuming the juice to become addicted, and this includes teenagers and even children under the age of 12," he said.

Azlan said he has yet to come across any book or medical journal scientifically certifying that ketum

could be used as medicine.

In fact, he said, he did not know of any pharmaceutical company within or outside the country which required ketum leaves to produce medicines.

As such, he advised the NCIA to conduct a scientific study on the benefits of ketum leaves, or look at alternative cash crops which did not cause harm to the people. — Bernama



45@45
Giveaways

It's prizes galore! **Star Media Group's Giveaway 3** offers two categories of gifts. Up for grabs are Grab rides worth RM2,000 per winner, and gorgeous luxe beauty and skincare products and gift sets. And yes, you can bid for both. To win, just go to contests.thestar.com.my/45anniversary/ and complete the virtual jigsaw puzzles and slogans by **Aug 4, 2016**.

ALL-NEW OUTLANDER

MADE IN JAPAN



RM168,600

5 YEARS
OR
100,000km WARRANTY
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

The Outstandingly Spacious SUV

It's the perfect pairing of show and go. The sleek Mitsubishi Outlander with 2.4L MIVEC engine and Multi-Select 4WD System ensure optimum efficiency. As for keeping loved ones safe and sound, there's a host of safety features including 7 SRS airbags, Active Stability Control with Traction Control and Hill-Start Assist. It's the All-New Outlander. It's outstanding in every way.



LED HEADLAMPS WITH DRLS



SUNROOF



ELECTRIC TAILGATE



7 SRS AIRBAGS



LARGE CARGO SPACE

Terms and conditions apply. Featured price is OTR without insurance (GST inclusive) and applicable to Peninsular Malaysia only (excluding duty free market).

Customer Care Line: 1800 18 6622 (Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm) | www.mitsubishi-motors.com.my | [f MitsubishiMotorsMalaysia](https://www.facebook.com/MitsubishiMotorsMalaysia) | [#allnewoutlander](https://www.instagram.com/allnewoutlander)

