Philip Morris ordered to pay RM1b to smoker

@<img src="images/stories/pictures/philipmorris 23-11-09.jpg" border="0"</pre> title="philip morris" width="150" height="100" align="middle" />LOS ANGELES, Nov 20 & A Florida jury yesterday ordered cigarette maker Philip Morris USA to pay US\$300 million (RM1 billion) in damages to a 61-year-old ex-smoker named Cindy Naugle who is wheelchair-bound by emphysema. assessed US\$56.6 million in past and future medical expenses against the company, part of Altria Group Inc, as well as US\$244 million in punitive damages. verdict is the largest of the so-called Engle progeny cases that have been tried so far, both sides said. Philip Morris will seek further review of the verdict because of @numerous erroneous rulings by the trial judge. Philip Morris spokesman Murray Garnick said in a statement. We believe that the punitive damages award is grossly excessive and a clear violation of constitutional and state law, Garnick said. align="justify">Naugle@s lawsuit was among about 8,000 cases filed in the wake of a 2006 Florida Supreme Court decision that tossed out a massive class action against the tobacco companies. The case, known as Engle v. RJ Reynolds, resulted in the largest verdict in US history at trial US\$145 billion. decertified the class of about 700,000 smokers, allowed some to file individual complaints.The case is Naugle v. Philip Morris USA. Reuters<p align="justify">Source: http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/index.php/world/44041-philip-morris-order ed-to-pay-rm1b-to-smoker