**Johor sultan's ex-lawyer gets civil suit moved to KL**
**Malaysiakini.com**
**August 4, 2011**

A lawyer who claims to have represented the Johor sultan at one time was successful in his judicial review application to transfer all cases related to his on-going RM10 million civil suit against a contractor and part-time photographer be transferred from the Johor Baru High Court to Kuala Lumpur, following allegations of intervention from the palace.

Johor High Court judge Vernon Ong agreed there has been a breach of natural justice and also the need for separation of powers principle to transfer the case, following fears of palace intervention.

The lawyer has also been successful in seeking a stay of the civil suit proceeding, which he also claims is affected by palace interference.

In documents obtained by Malaysiakini, the lawyer, Kamal Hisham Jaafar, 41, who is understood to be living outside the state as a result of this matter, is making the application under Section 25(2) of the Courts of Judicature Act to transfer the case.

The lawyer claims in his application that an interdivisional memo dated April 13 this year was issued by the sultan's personal secretary to him and the Johor courts, including the presiding judge in his civil dispute.

The memo claims that the lawyer no longer represents the sultan or the royal family.

Kamal Hisham claims the memo had violated the principle of separation of powers between the judiciary and the monarch which may affect the judgment of the judges presiding over the matter.

Following this, he made the application to have all his cases transferred to KL for fear it would prejudice him.

**Poison-pen letter alleges he cheated sultan**

In his supporting affidavit to the application, Kamal Hisham claims he filed an on-going civil suit against the contractor, Mohamad Ali Ismail, in March this year following the emergence of a poison-pen letter allegedly written by the photographer which he claims is defamatory against him.

He claims the poison-pen letter was slanderous against him in claiming that he had conspired with other individuals to cheat the sultan in allegedly selling vehicle licence plates allocated to the monarch to others and reaping profits worth thousands of ringgit.

Mohamad Ali, whom the lawyer claims is backed by the sultan, has filed a RM100 million counter-claim.

The defamatory letter has put him in a bad light as it showed him to be an untrustworthy person who had cheated the sultan, that he is a traitor and amassed profit illegally using his professional relationship with the sultan, claimed the lawyer.

Kamal Hisham said the interdivisional memo had violated the principle of the separation of powers as the on-going dispute is related to slander over the period when he had represented the sultan.

The lawyer claims his judicial review application is with merits as the case is presently being heard in Johor and that the memo, after it was issued, may prejudice his application.

The Star had also reported in May that the police are looking for Kamal Hisham's whereabouts over a cheating probe.

According to Kamal Hisham's family members the police have also been requested to transfer the case from Johor to Bukit Aman.

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