

**Bersih suit: Gov't opposes bid by poet Pak Samad to step in
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The government will raise preliminary objections to the application by Bersih 2.0 co-chairperson A Samad Said and five other steering committee members to intervene in the government's suit against nine of their colleagues.

Oral submissions from the government as well as from the six applicants will have to be made on Sept 18, Kuala Lumpur High Court judge John Louis O'Hara decided today.

The five other applicants from the Bersih panel are Yeo Yang Poh, Hishamuddin Md Rais, Ahmad Syukri Che Razab, Subramaniam Pillay and Liau Kok Fah.

On May 15, the federal government filed a civil suit against the movement's co-chairperson Ambiga Sreenevasan and nine steering committee members for RM122,000 in damages incurred during the Bersih 3.0 rally.

Last month, the six steering committee members applied to intervene in the case on grounds that they too were involved in organising the mammoth April 28 rally for electoral reform.

'Applicants do not fulfil requirement'

Samad, Subramaniam, and Liau are represented by Sheila Lingam, while Lim Tuck Sun is acting for Yeo, Ahmad Syukri and Hishamuddin.

Senior federal counsel Azizan Md Arshad told the court during case management today that the applicants were not qualified to intervene as they did not fulfil the requirement under Rule 15(6) of the High Court Rules.

Azizan explained to members of the press later that under the rule, whatever judgment obtained will affect one legal interest, but it does not apply in this case.

Justice O'Hara instructed the parties to exchange submissions before Aug 28 and said his decision would be made on Sept 18, after they completed their oral submissions.

Meanwhile, Haris Fathillah , who is better known as blogger-activist Haris Ibrahim, successfully struck out the suit against him.

His lawyer R Thipajothi informed the court that the government filed a notice of discontinuance against his client two days ago.