

Government vs Bersih suit heading for trial

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By Hafiz Yatim

The suit filed by the government against Bersih 2.0 steering committee members including its co-chairperson Ambiga Sreenevasan and national laureate A Samad Said, will go to trial.

This follows with Bersih representatives themselves filing separate counter-claims, and the failure to reach a settlement with the government.

NONE Ambiga (left) confirmed this with Malaysiakini in a text message.

Lawyer Ang Hean Leng, representing Bersih steering committee member Wong Chin Huat, also confirmed the matter would go to trial.

"The court has fixed Nov 12 for case management," Ang said.

The court had in July scheduled Jan 6 to 10 as possible trial dates.

The matter was fixed for mention before Kuala Lumpur High Court deputy registrar Nur Shafrida Hashim today.

Prior to this, it was reported last July that the government and Bersih 2.0 were exploring the possibility of settling the suit.

The government filed a civil suit against Ambiga and nine other steering committee members on May 15 last year, in the aftermath of the Bersih 3.0 protest on April 28 that year.

The government is seeking RM122,000 in special damages for 15 police vehicles damaged during the protest, including two water cannon trucks.

On their part, several Bersih members not named in the suit had applied to court to be interveners in the case.

Some of them, including Wong and Ambiga, have also filed counter-claims against the government.

Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/241639>