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Sothinathan obtains injunction against Kayveas

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KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk S. Sothinathan obtained an *ex-parte* injunction from the High Court here yesterday to restrain Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk M. Kayveas from making defamatory statements against him.

The injunction related to a RM20 million defamation suit that Sothinathan had brought against Kayveas and three others.

Justice Tengku Datuk Maimun Tuan Mat allowed the injunction in chambers and fixed Nov 20 to hear the *inter-parte* application.

The injunction restrains Kayveas, individually

or through his workers, agents or representatives, from uttering words or making speeches or publications, either orally or in writing, which are defamatory in nature against Sothinathan.

In his suit filed on Oct 17, Sothinathan named Kayveas, *Malaysian Namban* reporter R.P.K. Murgiah, Penerbitan Sahabat (M) Sdn Bhd and Summit Print Sdn Bhd as defendants.

In his statement of claim, he claimed that Kayveas had defamed him in a speech that he made in Tamil to reporters on Oct 9.

He said that the alleged defamatory words which were published the *Malaysian Namban* newspaper on Oct 9 headlined "*Saya Bersedia*

Bersemuka Dengan Budak Hingusan Sothi" had tarnished his reputation and political record and affected his chances of retaining his Teluk Kemang parliamentary seat. He further claimed that the publication of the words had incited hatred for him from the public.

Besides RM20 million in exemplary damages, Sothinathan is also seeking 8% interest per annum on the damages from the date of the judgment, costs and other reliefs deemed fit by the court.

His counsel, Ramesh N.P. Chandran, said the writ had been served on Kayveas but the statement of defence had yet to be filed. - Bernama