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Court strikes out Anwar's defamation suit

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court has allowed an application by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and the Government to strike out a RM100mil defamation suit filed by Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim against them.

Justice John Louis O' Hara made his ruling after meeting parties in chambers here yesterday.

Anwar's lawyer Sankara Nair said the court allowed the application after ruling that Anifah could not be sued in either his personal or official capacity.

"Of course, we disagree. We will be filing

an appeal soon against the decision," he told reporters.

On May 25, 2009, Anwar filed the suit against Anifah over his statement at a news conference in Washington on May 16 the same year.

He named Anifah in his personal capacity and as Kimanis MP as first defendant.

The Foreign Minister named as second defendant and the Malaysian Government as third defendant.

In his statement of claim, Anwar said Anifah had at a joint new conference with US State Secretary Hillary Clinton made a state-

ment that Anwar offered him the post of Deputy Prime Minister if he were to set up the Government on Sept 16, 2008.

Anwar, who is also PKR adviser, also claimed that Anifah had defamed him by saying that he was attempting to buy over MPs and tarnishing the country's image.

He was seeking RM100mil in damages and an injunction to restrain the defendants from further saying, writing or publishing the alleged defamatory words

In his application to strike out the suit filed in 2009, Anifah said it was defective and an abuse of the court process.