

## SETTLEMENT

# Defamation suit: Anwar accepts Perak Pas chief's apology

**TAIPING:** Perak Pas chief Razman Zakaria has apologised in court to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for claiming last year in an election campaign speech that the latter condoned LGBT practices.

The apology was made at the High Court here as part of a consent judgment to settle a defamation suit against him by Anwar.

Lawyer S.N. Nair said his client, Anwar, had agreed to the settlement as a “goodwill gesture” and to let the matter rest “in the interests of all parties”.

“When a man repents and seeks forgiveness in good faith, it takes a gracious leader to rise to the occasion and accept the apology and withdraw the suit,” said Nair, adding that the settlement had vindicated Anwar.

The suit was filed on Dec 5 over Razman’s claim, prior to the 15th

General Election, that Anwar would promote an LGBT agenda, allow same-sex marriage and support a communist agenda if he were elected prime minister.

Anwar was at the time the PH candidate for the Tambun parliamentary seat, which he eventually won, beating Perikatan Nasional’s Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu and two others with a majority of 3,736 votes.

Razman is the Perak assemblyman for Gunung Semanggol and current leader of the state opposition.

Anwar had demanded RM5 million in damages and an injunction to prevent Razman from making more defamatory statements against him.

The statement of claim said Razman’s allegations implied that Anwar had abused his powers as an MP, was deceitful, a traitor, a hypocrite and a bad Muslim.



*Razman Zakaria*