

Court dismisses lawyers' suit against PM, DPM and Govt over aid to Tamil schools

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KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here has struck out a suit filed by two lawyers against the Prime Minister, his deputy and the Government for all 523 Tamil primary schools in the country to be fully aided.

High Court judge Justice V.T. Singham held Wednesday that both lawyers failed to show that they had locus standi to file the civil action.

In the lawsuit filed on Feb 9, lawyers M. Manoharan and P. Uthayakumar sought for declaratory reliefs from the Prime Minister, his deputy and the Government for all 523 Tamil primary schools in the country to be fully aided.

They named Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the Government as defendants.

Justice Singham said both plaintiffs did state in the claim if their interests or rights were affected but contended that it was for the benefit of Tamil community as a whole.

He said Manoharan also candidly responded in his submissions Wednesday that his rights were not affected and there was no special injury caused to him but that he was acting in the interests of the Tamil community as whole.

The judge also ruled that the reliefs sought by the plaintiffs could be filed by way of a writ of summons (at Civil division) and not necessarily by way of an application for a judicial review (at the Appellate and Special Powers division of the High Court).

The judge ordered each lawyer to pay RM1,000 in costs to the defendants.

Manoharan said he would appeal against the court ruling.

The defendants had applied to strike out the claim on grounds that it was frivolous, vexatious and abuse of the court process.

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