

Ex-assemblyman drops RM10m defamation suit after open apology
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By Opalyn Mok

GEORGE TOWN, May 20 — Former Batu Uban state assemblyman S.Raveen Tharan dropped his RM10 million defamation suit against a bank executive after the latter apologised in open court today.

Raveen had filed the suit against P.Raguram after the latter circulated a letter alleging Raveen of sexual misconduct back in 2010 to the Penang chief minister Lim Guan Eng and all of the state executive councillors.

Raveen immediately filed the suit against Raguram demanding for damages of RM10million as the letter had damaged his reputation especially when he is a state assemblyman at that time.

Today, when the case came up in court, Raguram read out his apology to Raveen in open court before Justice Datuk Mohd Zaki Mohd Yassin and retracted his allegations against Raveen.

"I hereby apologise and declare that I did not intend to make the disparaging statement but if I had unintentionally caused damage to Raveen's image and reputation, then I offer my apologies and retract my statement," Raguram read out in court.

Raveen dropped the suit against Raguram after the open court apology and later told the press outside the courtroom that he only wanted to clear his reputation.

"I'm not after compensation but want to clear my name as this letter had ruined my reputation especially when I was still a state assemblyman when it was circulated," Raveen said.

In 2010, Raguram had circulated a poison pen letter alleging a "PKR assemblyman" of sexual misconduct.

Raveen, in his RM10 million suit, had also submitted witness statements from DAP national chairman Karpal Singh, Deputy Chief Minister II Prof P.Ramasamy and state Exco Chow Kon Yeow as supporting evidence.

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