

**Perkasa Has No Locus Standi To Sue Kurup, Says Court
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 10 (Bernama) -- The High Court here today struck out Pertubuhan Pribumi Perkasa Malaysia (Perkasa)'s defamation suit against Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Tan Sri Joseph Kurup.

The suit was in relation to Kurup's statements on Dec 24 last year which allegedly portrayed the organisation as extremist, that it used religion to spark violence and cause fear and disunity among the people.

Justice Datuk Hue Siew Kheng ruled that Perkasa had no locus standi to file the suit against the Minister as well as that Kurup's statements were not defamatory.

She made the decision in chambers after allowing Kurup's application to strike out the suit. She ordered Perkasa to pay RM10,000 as legal costs to the defendant.

"The court agreed with the defendant that the plaintiff has no legal personality to file the suit against the Minister," senior federal counsel Alice Loke Yee Ching who represented the minister told reporters.

The judge noted that there were two publications, of which one did not refer to Perkasa at all.

"Therefore, the entire suit is misconceived as half of the allegations referred to Ibrahim Ali (Perkasa president) but the suit was filed under the name of Perkasa," Hue held.

Meanwhile, Perkasa's counsel Adnan Seman said he would not appeal against today's verdict as Ibrahim had informed him yesterday that Perkasa would not proceed with the case.

On May 27, this year, Kurup filed the application to strike out Perkasa's defamation suit on grounds that it had no locus standi and was an abuse of the court process, frivolous and vexatious.

Perkasa through Ibrahim had filed the suit on Jan 28, this year, alleging that Kurup's media statement on Dec 24 last year about the organisation was misleading and defamatory.

The organisation alleged that Kurup had also slandered it in his speech at the Malaysian Strategic Outlook Conference in Petaling Jaya on Jan 27, this year.

Perkasa said Kurup's statements portrayed the organisation as extremist, that used religion to spark violence and cause fear and disunity among the people.

The plaintiff had also claimed that its reputation and image were tarnished as a result of

the defendant's statements that were reported in the print media and news portals.

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