



From second left are Brenda, Siew Chiang, Chieng Jen and Kong after the proceedings at the courthouse yesterday.

# High Court to rule on defamation suit by Wee against Kong on March 1

**KUCHING:** The Kuching High Court will deliver its decision on the defamation suit filed by Sarawak Federation of Chinese Associations (SFCA) president Dato Richard Wee against the special assistant to Sarawak DAP chairman Chong Chieng Jen, Michael Kong, on March 1 this year.

Judge Dr Alwi Abdul Wahab fixed the date after hearing the submissions by counsels Shankar Ram Asnani, Russell Lim and Yu Ying Ying representing the plaintiff (Wee) and counsels Chong Chieng Jen, Chong Siew Chiang and Brenda Chong representing the defendant (Kong).

"The decision on the suit is fixed for March 1 this year at 2.30pm," said Alwi during the

proceedings yesterday.

The trial of the suit which started on June 22, 2021 saw 17 plaintiff witnesses including Wee, and four defence witnesses, including Kong, testifying.

Besides Wee and Kong, among the witnesses who gave statements in this suit were Pending assemblywoman Violet Yong, counsel Wong King Wei, Wee's personal assistant Kueh Mui Huang, and counsel Chai Voon Tok.

Wee is suing Kong over a statement posted by Kong on his Facebook page on July 21, 2020 which contained an alleged defamatory element against Wee.

Wee is seeking general damages, exemplary damages for libel and malicious falsehood, and an injunction to restrain

the defendant from publishing, causing to be published, circulating, and distributing the said post.

Kong posted the statement on Facebook after Wee informed that there was a possibility that more urban Chinese voters in the state will support Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) in the 12th State Election because of the commitment shown by the coalition government in fighting for Sarawak's autonomy.

Kong also claimed that before Wee spoke on behalf of the Chinese community in an effort to support the GPS government, he (Wee) should declare his business and personal interest in the GPS government, especially in relation to Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB).