



(From left) Tan, Yong and their team exit the courtroom at the end of the proceedings.

Taib's sons vs Raghad: Court wants issue of Syariah jurisdiction to be settled before trial begins

KUCHING: The High Court here yesterday ordered for the issue of whether the Syariah Court has jurisdiction over the suit filed by the sons of the late Tun Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud against their stepmother Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Raghad Kurdi Taib to be resolved first before the actual trial begins.

Judge Alexander Siew fixed May 14 for pre-trial case management, at which time the court will also fix the dates and issue directions for the trial on the jurisdictional issue.

During the proceedings, Siew also struck off an application by plaintiffs Dato Sri Sulaiman Abdul Rahman Taib and Datuk Seri Mahmud Abu Bekir Taib to include their late father as the third defendant.

"Enclosure 132 was an application by the plaintiffs to include Tun Taib as the third defendant. Tun Taib has since passed away so Enclosure 132 has been overtaken by events. Enclosure 132 is hereby struck off with no order as to costs," said Siew.

Meanwhile, the plaintiffs through their counsel Alvin Chong informed the court that the Letters of Administration had since been issued in respect of the estates of Taib and his first wife, the late Datuk Patinggi Puan Sri Laila Taib.

"The process is, there was revocation of the previous Letters of Administration issued to the late Tun Taib and since then, upon application by the first plaintiff (Sulaiman), the

district office has since issued fresh Letters of Administration to the first plaintiff affecting the estate of late Toh Puan Laila," explained the lawyer.

Raghad, Taib's second wife, is being sued by his sons Sulaiman and Bekir who are seeking a court injunction to halt the transfer of shares from Cahya Mata Sarawak Berhad to her.

Sulaiman and Bekir have named Raghad as the first defendant, and RHB Investment Bank Berhad as the second defendant. Raghad is represented by Alvin Yong, Shirleen Ong and Wong Chun Ming.

Representing RHB Investment Bank is Tan Kee Heng and Lesley Lynn Ling, while Sulaiman and Bekir are represented by Chong and Jonathan Tay.