

**MEDIA STATEMENT
22 APRIL 2014**

**Appeal and Intervention Applications Withdrawn
Wee Kim San Lawrence Bernard v Attorney-General
Originating Summons No 763 of 2013 (Registrar's Appeal No 402 of 2013)**

1. This was an appeal by Mr Lawrence Wee ("**Mr Wee**") to a High Court Judge against the decision of the Assistant Registrar in striking out his claim against the Attorney-General ("**AG**") in Originating Summons No 763 of 2013 ("**the Action**"). The AG had applied to strike out the Action on the basis that the Action was not sustainable in law, was frivolous and vexatious or was otherwise an abuse of the Court process.
2. In the Action, Mr Wee sought a declaration from the Court that Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore prohibits workplace discrimination of homosexual men. The Action was filed by Mr Wee against the AG after his claim in a separate High Court suit against his former employer, Robinson & Company (Singapore) Pte Ltd, for constructive dismissal arising from alleged homosexual discrimination had been struck out by the High Court.
3. The Assistant Registrar struck out Mr Wee's claim against the AG as he agreed that Mr Wee had failed to show an arguable case that the Government had violated his Article 12 constitutional rights. Mr Wee had therefore failed to show that he even had standing to seek the declaration. Following the striking out of the Action by the Assistant Registrar, Mr Wee filed the appeal. In addition, three intervention applications ("**the Intervention Applications**") were also filed by an androgyne, a transvestite and a bisexual ("**the Applicants**") respectively seeking the Court's permission for them to be joined as plaintiffs to the Action.
4. On 21 April 2014, counsel for Mr Wee and the Applicants (Mr M Ravi of L.F. Violet Netto) applied to withdraw the appeal and the Intervention Applications. The AG did not object to the application to withdraw. By the consent of parties, Judicial Commissioner Tan Siong Thye granted leave for the withdrawal of the appeal and the Intervention Applications and ordered that costs be paid by Mr Wee to the AG. Additionally, Mr Wee is also required to pay costs to the AG as ordered by the Assistant Registrar upon the striking out of the Action.

Note:

- * Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore provides for the equal protection of the law.
- ** In law, a claim may be struck out by the Court if it is plain and obvious that it is bound to fail, is scandalous, frivolous or vexatious, or is an abuse of the court process. If struck out, the claim is disallowed from proceeding further to trial. This procedure is to prevent the wastage of court and parties' resources in having to deal with clearly unsupportable claims.

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