

Respect judgments made by our courts

ON Tuesday, the apex court upheld the Court of Appeal's decision by sending the Malaysian opposition leader to five years' jail.

The decision by the highest court in Malaysia received many reactions from the public, not only within the country, but also internationally, as the case involves an important political figure in the country. Whatever the reactions that have been expressed, it is crucial for everyone to remain calm

and accept the court's judgment.

Bear in mind, the judges had reached their verdict only after considering all the relevant evidences tendered in a balanced and objective manner based on the arguments submitted from all the parties involved in the case. Any act of disrespect to the decision will only tarnish the country's judiciary name in the eyes of the world.

Furthermore, any such conduct will also create disturbances in society. Worst, people will no longer

believe in the court system and, thus, they may take action into their own hands to solve disputes. Thus, it is crucial for everyone to respect the court's decision. Any dissatisfaction should be channel according to the process provided by law and the Constitution.

By respecting the decision, we are respecting the rule of law. The rule clearly implies that every citizen is subject to the law, including lawmakers. This stands in contrast to autocracy, collective leadership,

dictatorship or oligarchy where the rulers are held above the law.

Respecting the rules of law is also one of the pillars of our *Rukun Negara*, a Malaysian declaration of national philosophy instituted by royal proclamation on Merdeka Day in 1970, in reaction to the May 13 incident in 1969.

Our judiciary system is not new in the country as it has existed for hundreds of years. The modern judicial system of Malaysia began when the First Royal Charter of Justice 1807 was issued, which gave rise to the formation and execution of a court in Penang after the island was taken by the British Empire.

Over the years, our judicial system has developed positively in the way as we know it today. It is led by credible people who have wide experience as well as legal training in the judicial process. It is important for everyone to know that the country has an independent judiciary, and there have been many rulings against senior government figures. As such, fair comments should be given towards our judiciary system.

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