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Uncalled for remarks by certain outsiders

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FOR all the shortcomings that our honourable Members of Parliament may be accused of, at least they do not interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

Even if they do comment on foreign nations from time to time, they hardly go to the extent of proposing resolutions to the effect. Common decency dictates this.

All countries have their own judicial systems. It is out of place for one country to pass remarks and worse, forward resolutions in its House demanding the revoking of judgements and ordering re-trials in another country.

Malaysian legislators did not ask for a re-examination of the attempted impeachment proceedings of a president, guilty of sexual misconduct, and who initially lied about it.

This is disgraceful demeanour by any standard, yet there was no great outcry from our Parliament, purely out of politeness and respect for the internal matters of another sovereign nation.

Yet another prominent leader rudely championed the cause of unruly mobs when he was a guest of Malaysia, and promptly walked out of a dinner function. It was tantamount to encouraging rebellion.

I don't know whether this is acceptable behaviour. "Shocking" is a more apt and descriptive word.

There was much scepticism amongst certain Western nations about Asian values, championed by leaders like Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

They repeatedly and scornfully asked what these so-called values were. Well, if there is any example to illustrate the issue, the recent attempt to interfere in the Malaysian judiciary system is certainly not one of them, which emphasises the need for good manners when interacting with other nations.

The world would be a much better place for all of us if we looked after our own affairs without uncalled-for remarks from outsiders.

There is such a thing as diplomacy, and if someone felt so strongly about the business of another nation, the concerns could be addressed through the proper channels.

Malaysians are advised to disregard such unkind initiatives by the foreign individuals and continue administering the country as they think fit.

As it stands, the attempt by the foreign individuals is unlikely to go far, being the handiwork of a few restless law-makers. It would appear that their enthusiasm is more to gain political mileage with the American elections coming up.

Even so, it was highly improper to do this, making other countries their whipping boys.