

Why the delay, CJ asks judges

KUALA LUMPUR: The Chief Justice has written to two judges asking them to explain why they have been slow in either delivering their judgments or the grounds.

Tan Sri Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah said a letter had been sent previously by then Chief judge of Malaya Tan Sri Wan Adnan Ismail to one of them.

"An explanation was given but the situation did not improve.

"When I checked the statistics for the two courts, they were not good so I took it upon myself to ask for an explanation for the delay," he said, adding that one judge had not given his grounds of judgment although the case had been decided more than six years ago.

Dzaiddin said this at a press conference yesterday

after the elevation of Wan Adnan as Court of Appeal President and Datuk Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim as the new Chief Judge of Malaya.

Earlier in his speech he said: "Although there has been development in the clearing of the backlog of cases, there are still a handful of High Court judges who have not followed Practice Direction No 511996 by the Chief Justice."

He said it was his hope that judges would take proactive steps to resolve the problems.

On the 13 vacancies in the High Court nationwide, Dzaiddin said he would suggest to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that there was a need to appoint several more High Court judges and Judicial Commissioners to ensure smooth running of the courts.