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`Trust judiciary to carry out its duties'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Judges should be left to exercise judicial power, and this includes the discretion to impose a lesser sentence as they see fit.

DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh, who is a lawyer, said the executive should trust the judiciary to carry out its duties.

He added that the mandatory death penalty for drug trafficking was brought into force by amending Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 on April 15, 1983.

"There is no question of a judge being afraid of passing the death sentence, although it is unfortunate that judicial discretion has been taken away."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed concern yesterday over the tendency of judges to avoid imposing the death sentence on drug traffickers.

He said judges were more concerned in not taking a human life instead of considering the extreme dangers posed by the drug menace.