

CJ: Najib's petition to UN is up to him'

PUTRAJAYA: Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat is unfazed by Datuk Seri Najib Razak's recent petition to the United Nations' Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD), in which he is seeking a release from prison or retrial of his SRC International case.

The top judge said the action by the former Pekan MP was "entirely up to him" as the Federal Court had delivered its decision on his final appeal and, thus, this did not affect the judiciary.

"Our job is done. We have discharged our responsibilities in terms of deciding on the case. Whatever he wants to do, whatever avenue he wants to explore, that is beyond us," she told a press conference here yesterday after attending the Opening of the Legal Year (OLY) 2023.

When asked if any decision by the UNWGAD

would have a binding effect here in Malaysia, Tengku Maimun refused to comment farther.

"(All I can say), the judiciary is not affected post the decision we deliver," she said.

On Jan 5, Najib's lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah told the press that the defence team had sent a petition titled "Datuk Seri Najib Razak vs Malaysia" to UNWGAD on the same day.

Najib is currently serving his 12-year prison sentence after the Federal Court affirmed his conviction and sentence in the SRC International case.

He was also imposed with a RM210mil fine.

According to Muhammad Shafee, Najib is asking the UNWGAD panel of five experts on international justice to rule that the dismissal of his appeal by the Federal Court on Aug 23 last year was unjust and flawed and had violated his basic human rights and the

Federal Constitution.

Najib claimed that there were serious breaches of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Malaysia is a party.

On his review application of the Federal Court's decision, Tengku Maimun said the three-day hearing would go as planned as the judges presiding over the matter had been prepared.

She said recent vacancies at the Federal Court level would not affect the hearing fixed for Jan 19, Jan 20 and Jan 26.

"The review's hearing dates have been fixed, and we have the panel of judges ready for the matter," she said.

"Our job is done. We have discharged our responsibilities in terms of deciding on the case. Whatever he wants to do, whatever avenue he wants to explore, that is beyond us."

Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun
Tuan Mat