

PM HAILS LEGAL BLOW TO SULU 'HEIRS' CLAIM

Malaysia closer to nullifying sham, abusive final award to claimants, says Anwar

ADIB POVERA
AND HANA NAZ HARUN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia is getting closer to completely nullifying the “sham and abusive” final award against the country given to a group claiming they are the

heirs of the Sulu Sultanate.

He said this after The Hague Court of Appeal dismissed a bid by eight people who claimed to be descendants of the sultanate to enforce a US\$15 billion arbitration award they had won against the government of Malaysia.

Describing the development as a landmark victory, he said the decision had blocked any attempt by the claimants to enforce their illegitimate claims against the Malaysian government in the Netherlands.

“This verdict in The Hague Court of Appeal is another landmark victory for Malaysia following the Paris Court of Appeal’s decision on June 6.

“The Malaysian government is

confident that we are now closer than ever to completely nullifying the sham and abusive Final Award amounting to approximately US\$15 billion issued by (Spanish arbitrator) Dr Gonzalo Stampa, thus consigning the claimants’ flawed claims to history.

“Malaysia trusts that today’s decision of The Hague Court of Appeal, combined with the recent decision of the Paris Court of Appeal, will put an end to the frivolous attempts of the claimants to enforce the purported Final Award in other jurisdictions,” he said in a statement.

He said the government would stop at nothing to protect the nation’s sovereignty, national security and national interest.