

'ACT WITH DECORUM ON NAJIB VERDICT'

Respect the court's decision as it is inappropriate to escalate tensions, Anwar tells public

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded the public to observe decorum following Datuk Seri Najib Razak's royal addendum ruling.

He said while some might express sympathy for Najib and his family, it would be inappropriate to escalate tensions or worsen the situation in this sensitive period.

He called on all parties to respect the court's decision, noting that legal avenues for appeals remain available under the law.

He said the Madani government was committed to upholding the rule of law and the separation of powers, adding that the judiciary must remain free from external influence.

"Based on the principle of the supremacy of law, all parties should respect the judge's decision, including the legal avenues still available for appeals, as well as to the king in accordance with existing legal provisions," he said in a Facebook post.

He urged the public to approach the matter with patience and wisdom.

On Monday, several Barisan Nasional leaders criticised Puchong member of parliament Yeo Bee Yin over her social media post on the court ruling on the former prime minister's judicial review application.

After the court dismissed Najib's application to enforce the royal addendum allowing him to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest, Yeo said it was "another reason to celebrate this year end".

Among those who criticised Yeo were BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, BN Youth and Umno Youth chief Datuk Dr Muhamad Akmal Saleh and Negri Sembilan Umno chairman Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias.

In response on Facebook, Zambry said: "Why the need to cel-



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court on Monday. NSTP PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

ebate? Don't celebrate the suffering of others. Life is a cycle. Remember your leaders are not infallible either."

Meanwhile, the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC) dismissed claims that the Kuala Lumpur High Court's dismissal of Najib's judicial review application had curtailed the powers of the king, the Malay rulers and Yang di-Pertua Negeri in matters of pardon.

Referring to reports quoting Najib's lawyer, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, as alleging that the ruling had curtailed these powers, the A-GC said the claim was entirely untrue and did not reflect the actual reasoning of the High Court in rejecting the application.

It said in dismissing Najib's application, the High Court had reaffirmed that the power to pardon is a prerogative of the king, as guaranteed under Article 42(1) of the Constitution, consistent with established precedents of the superior courts.

It said Article 42 provides that in exercising this prerogative, the king, the Malay rulers and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri must convene with the Pardons Board when deciding pardon applications.

"In Najib's case, the minutes of the 61st meeting of the Pardons Board for the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and Putrajaya clearly show that the issue of house arrest was never discussed nor ordered by the 16th king during the meeting.

"The meeting only considered

Najib's application for a full pardon and the order made by the 16th king at the time was solely to reduce the term of imprisonment and the fine by 50 per cent.

"As such, the High Court judge ruled that any purported additional order for house arrest was not made pursuant to Article 42 of the Constitution as the matter was neither discussed by the board nor decided by the 16th king during the same meeting."

The A-GC said the judge, in the written judgment, had recognised the prerogative powers of the king, the Malay rulers and Yang di-Pertua Negeri, which cannot be exercised by any other party.

In a constitutional monarchy, the power to pardon must be exercised in accordance with Article 42 of the Constitution, it said.

The A-GC cautioned against attempts to incite or disrupt public order through misleading interpretations of the judgment, calling such actions inappropriate.

"All parties should respect the appeal process that has been initiated by Najib," it said, reiterating its commitment to defending the royal institution and upholding the Constitution.

On Monday, Shafee claimed that the High Court's dismissal of Najib's bid for house arrest had "diluted the powers" and undermined the full prerogative of mercy vested not only in the king, but also in the Malay rulers and Yang di-Pertua Negeri. **Additional reporting by Dawn Chan**