

**Verdict In Anwar's Case Shows Independence Of Judiciary - Rais
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- The verdict in Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's court case shows that the country's judiciary is independent and able to deliver judgment without fear or favour, Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said.

"The judgment has been made, and with this, it is proven that the country's judiciary is reputable, and its judgments are on par with those made in the developed countries, which are based on the rule of law," he told reporters, here.

The High Court Monday acquitted and discharged Anwar of sodomising a former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

In a statement issued earlier, Rais noted the verdict proved that the government did not hold sway over judges' decisions.

The current wave of bold democratic reforms introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak would help extend this transparency to all areas of Malaysian life, he said.

Rais also told reporters that the verdict exemplified the need for people to remain steadfast in upholding the rule of law.

"No one is above the law of the country. I'm confident that with the verdict, followers and supporters of Anwar will now try to rationalise the meaning of the rule of law which is an integral part of the Rukun Negara (national principles)," he said.

He hoped that there would be no more speculations or calls that would undermine unity among the people or the institutions or the country's administration.

"The verdict and the court's opinion should be respected.

"I am proud of the country's judiciary which has discharged its duties without fear or favour," he said.

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