



PRESS STATEMENT

PARIS COURT OF APPEAL CONCLUDES HEARING ON THE MERITS FOR THE ANNULMENT OF FINAL AWARD IN SULU CASE

On 7 July 2025, the Paris Court of Appeal concluded its hearing on the merits for the annulment of the Final Award in the Case filed by the so-called heirs of the long defunct Sultanate of Sulu (“the Claimants”).

The hearing forms part of the ongoing French judicial proceedings concerning the validity of the \$14.9 billion Final Award. The Paris Court of Appeal had earlier stayed its proceedings on the annulment of the Final Award while waiting for a rendering of a decision by French Court of Cassation on 6 November 2024, which upheld the Paris Court of Appeal decision refusing the enforcement of the Partial Award whereby the sole arbitrator affirmed his jurisdiction. During the hearing, the Claimants attempted to postpone the proceedings to enable them to respond to the written opinion of the Public Prosecutor of France. However, the Court did not allow the motion for postponement and continued with the proceedings. The Paris Court of Appeal reserved its decision on 9 December 2025.

In this context, Malaysia places its confidence in the Paris Court of Appeal’s process and decision in bringing a definitive end to the so-called Sulu Claimants’ illegal global enforcement efforts, similar to the positions adopted by the Spanish and Dutch courts.

Malaysia at the same time continues to advance its efforts to promote a global framework that places transparency at the centre of third-party

litigation funding, ensuring that a mechanism intended to promote access to justice is not misused as an instrument of lawfare against sovereign States. International arbitration must be protected from attempts to extort sovereign States under the guise of arbitration claims.

The MADANI Government of Malaysia remains firmly committed to taking all necessary measures to safeguard the integrity of international arbitration and to defend Malaysia's sovereign rights, sovereign immunity, and national interests against all unlawful challenges.

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