



PRESS STATEMENT

SPANISH SUPREME COURT DISMISSES CASSATION APPEAL AND UPHOLDS FINAL CONVICTION OF SULU ARBITRATOR MR GONZALO STAMPA FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT

On 8 October 2025, the Spanish Supreme Court issued its final decision to dismiss the cassation appeal filed by Mr Gonzalo Stampa, thereby upholding in full his conviction for contempt of court. The decision was unanimous, with all five judges concurring. This marks the closure of one of Spain's most closely watched judicial proceedings linked to international arbitration. The conviction, which carries a sentence of six months' imprisonment and a one-year prohibition from acting as an arbitrator, was initially rendered by the Madrid Criminal Court on 22 December 2023 and stemmed from Mr Stampa's actions in the so-called Sulu case. This judgment is final, conclusively ends all criminal proceedings in Spain and was received by the Government of Malaysia today.

This final judgment reaffirms that adherence to lawful orders remains the cornerstone of both justice and the integrity of dispute resolution.

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform), has said: *"Malaysia welcomes the landmark ruling from Spain's highest court as a definitive affirmation of the rule of law. It demonstrates beyond doubt that the purported Sulu arbitration was the product of the unlawful and criminal conduct of a rogue arbitrator and vindicates the Government of Malaysia's consistent position that the so-called award obtained by the Sulu Claimants is null and void."*

The courts of Spain, France and the Netherlands have now all confirmed Malaysia's position concerning the Sulu case.

The Government of Malaysia extends its deep appreciation to the Prime Minister YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the Cabinet, the Minister in the Prime Minister Department (Law and Institutional Reform), the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General, the Director General of the Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU, JPM), Sulu Special Secretariat War Room and all relevant agencies including the National Security Council (MKN) as well as Malaysia's international legal counsel for their unwavering support, coordination and commitment in defending Malaysia's sovereignty and national interests throughout this complex international legal battle.

The Government of Malaysia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to defend Malaysia's sovereignty, immunity and national interests against the baseless claims made in the Sulu fraud.

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA,
SULU SPECIAL SECRETARIAT WAR ROOM**

16 OCTOBER 2025

