

**SPECIAL REMARKS BY
YB DATO' SRI AZALINA OTHMAN SAID
LAUNCH OF THE SULU E-BOOK IN BRUSSELS
SUNDAY, 11TH OF FEBRUARY 2024**

Assalamualaikum and a very good afternoon to all.

1. **Today's launch of the e-book "*Sulu Fraud vs. Malaysia's Truth*" is an opportunity to mark the progress that the Government of Malaysia has accomplished thus far in combating the fraudulent Sulu Claims.**
2. Please allow me to give you a preview of the '*Sulu Fraud vs Malaysia's Truth*' e-book. **The book is meant to give a glimpse of the abuses and injustices to the detriment of all Malaysians, the historical backgrounds of the case,** the involvement of Therium, and the landmark victories achieved by Malaysia in the European courts. To ease understanding, timeline of the case is also included in the book to chronologically map out the events and legal proceedings from the historic 1878 leading up to the present time.
3. As the e-book details, the Sulu fraud has raised several alarming concerns, among others, **the importance of upholding ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and good practices among the pool of international arbitrators, being the cornerstone of a legitimate arbitration.**
4. **We are launching this e-book here today at the Brussels being the headquarters of the European Union and will be disseminated to all the Ambassadors in Malaysia and Malaysian Ambassadors across the globe.**

5. Last month I have met with the European Ambassadors at Kuala Lumpur on **23 Jan 2024** and announced **the formation of a Working Group**, involving the cross-pollination of knowledge and policies among the European Union member States and Malaysia **to address the contemporary issues plaguing international arbitration, among others, third-party funding, the best practices, and the code of ethics of the arbitrators.**
6. **I wish to remind that the fight is not the Government's alone as the interest of EVERY MALAYSIAN is at stake.** I call for all Malaysians to stand together with us in fighting the Sulu claims. At this juncture, I encourage every Malaysian to build a basic understanding of this legal battle, either through the **Malaysia-Sulu Case website or now through the newly launched "Sulu Fraud vs. Malaysia' Truth" e-book.** It is our collective responsibility to triumph over this battle.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

7. The criminal conviction of Dr Gonzalo Stampa, despite being subject to appeal, is unprecedented and a positive development. Malaysia acknowledged the importance of the Spanish court's decision and we are confident that it will serve as an effective deterrent to the scurrilous actions of the perpetrators behind the Sulu Fraud. **This landmark decision also indicates the international legal community's commitment to uphold the rule of law.** While the decision is a timely call-out to the global arbitration fraternity, **it also reveals the uncharted waters, in particular the regulation of the professional ethics of the arbitrators.**
8. While the legal battle takes its course, the Government of Malaysia is calling for an **urgent review and global reform for the enhancement of the third-party litigation industry following our experience in the high-profile Sulu Claims.**

For the sake of brevity, the Claimants' claims are financially backed by the London-based litigation funder, Therium. Therium's involvement in this case, with rather limited information of such made known to Malaysia, has generated significant concern about the transparency and the good practices of third-party funding in the context of international arbitration.

9. Aside from the above, I must emphasise that the Sulu Claims have magnified the importance of preserving both the independence and equality of sovereign States. The **doctrine of state immunity**, among the bedrock principles of customary international law, is an effective shield for each State to preserve its sovereignty, dignity, and independence at international fora. In light of the above, the Kerajaan MADANI has drawn up the **Jurisdictional Immunities of Foreign States Bill 2023** as part of Malaysia's commitment to upholding the sovereignty and immunity of every States. **The law is at present in the House of Representatives pending for second reading.**

10. **I am confident that the e-book will provide the readers greater insights into the case.** Concurrently, it serves as a stark reminder to the global community of the proliferation of threats and injustices within the international arbitration system. Thank you all for joining us today. Let us stand in unity for the betterment of Malaysia's sovereignty, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.