



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF MADRID CONFIRMS ITS PRIOR DECISION TO  
ANNUL GONZALO STAMPA'S APPOINTMENT AS ARBITRATOR**

On 14 February 2025, the High Court of Justice of Madrid has notified its decision upholding its own prior decision dated 29 June 2021 (that annulled Mr Gonzalo Stampa's judicial appointment as arbitrator) and dismissing the Sulu claimants' attempt to revoke it.

By way of reminder, the High Court of Justice of Madrid issued a final and binding decision on 29 June 2021, in line with its case law, ruling that, as a foreign State, Malaysia had been improperly summoned to arbitrator appointment proceedings. The Court therefore annulled Mr Stampa's judicial appointment as arbitrator and all of his procedural actions in the so-called Sulu case, and ordered that Malaysia be properly summoned and the proceedings for the appointment of a new arbitrator restarted. The annulment of the appointment was later confirmed by the Spanish courts after a failed constitutional appeal by the Sulu claimants.

Following the appointment annulment decision of 29 June 2021, the High Court of Justice of Madrid sent various orders to Mr Stampa instructing him to immediately bring an end to the Sulu arbitration. In a move that only Mr Stampa can explain, he decided to disobey the orders of the Court that had initially appointed him and then revoked his appointment. Notably, Mr Stampa collected more than USD 2.7 million from the Sulu claimants, who are funded by London-based litigation funder Therium.

After ignoring the orders of the High Court of Justice of Madrid, Mr Stampa changed the seat of the purported arbitration from Madrid to Paris at the request of the Sulu claimants, in order to evade the oversight of the Spanish courts, which he had undertaken to obey when he accepted his initial appointment. The Spanish courts have already criminally convicted Mr Stampa twice for his actions.

On December 2023, the Sulu claimants filed a brief before the High Court of Justice of Madrid, desperately attempting to have the Court annul its own 29 June 2021

decision, on the sole and exclusive basis of a press article according to which the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs had allegedly exerted political pressures on the Court due to Spanish economic interests with Malaysia. Malaysia duly opposed to this annulment request as the Sulu claimants' brief was totally baseless.

Now, the High Court of Justice of Madrid has issued a decision dated 11 February 2025, which dismisses the annulment request entirely and orders the Sulu claimants to bear the costs.

The decision confirms that the annulment request of the Sulu claimants “*lacks the minimum evidentiary rigour and consistency*”, as it is based on the mere opinions and speculations of a press article, not real evidence.

The High Court of Justice of Madrid also expressly indicates that its magistrates were never pressured nor did they allow themselves to be pressured in any way, and that the decision to annul Mr Stampa's judicial appointment as arbitrator was based solely and exclusively on the legal reasons contained in the 29 June 2021 decision, which was final and binding ever since it was issued.

Malaysia welcomes this ruling from the Spanish courts, which vindicates the Government's policy to vigorously defend Malaysia in every court and forum, exercising all its powers, rights and resources to ensure the end of the Sulu Fraud and that Malaysia's interests, sovereign immunity and sovereignty are protected at all times.

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA,**

**WAR ROOM SEKRETARIAT KHAS MENANGANI ISU TUNTUTAN PIHAK YANG  
MENDAKWA WARIS KESULTANAN SULU  
17 FEBRUARY 2025**

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

For more information about the case, please see - <https://www.malaysia-sulucase.gov.my/> | Contact: [sulu.media@bheuu.gov.my](mailto:sulu.media@bheuu.gov.my)