

B. Allahyarham YABhg. Tun Mohamed Dzaiddin bin Abdullah

If it pleases this Honourable Court,

1. We gather in this second session to pay tribute to a towering figure of our legal landscape, the late Chief Justice of Malaysia, Allahyarham Tun Mohamed Dzaiddin bin Abdullah, whose life journey was one of remarkable scale defined by public duty, versatility and an unwavering allegiance to the administration of justice. Before his elevation to the Bench, Tun Dzaiddin lived distinct lives.
2. He began his professional journey as a journalist with *The Malay Mail* then as an inspector with the Special Branch in the Royal Malaysia Police and later as a legal practitioner¹. For those of us at the Malaysian Bar, Tun Dzaiddin holds a cherished and historic place in our hearts. He was, one of our own. He was active in the legal fraternity, leading as the Chairman of the Kelantan Bar Committee² and Vice-President of the Bar Council for the 1981–1982 term. Prior to that he was a member of the Bar Council from 1976 to 1982 and also Chairperson of the Legal Profession Committee from March to September 1982³.
3. When he was appointed Chief Justice of Malaysia in December 2000, he made history as the very first practitioner from the private Bar to rise to the nation's highest judicial office⁴. When he took over as Chief Justice, he acknowledged that public confidence was at its lowest point⁵ and upon assuming office, Tun Dzaiddin confronted the challenges of the time directly stating his clear mission was to restore public confidence in the judicial institution and return it to its past glories as a body held in the highest respect⁶.
4. Tun Dzaiddin held a steadfast belief in what the Judiciary should be. Reflecting on the wisdom of Tun Dr. Mohamed Suffian Hashim, Tun Dzaiddin reminded us that judges must remain the “*Guardians of the Constitution and the Law, upholding the Rule of Law, and not the tools of politicians and Government; standing between the powerful and the weak, between the rich and*

¹ <https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/718679>

² <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/07/1075452/tun-mohamed-dzaiddin-first-serving%C2%A0lawyer-appointed-chief-justice>

³ <https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/news/in-memoriam/in-memoriam/in-memoriam-tun-mohamed-dzaiddin-b-haji-abdullah>

⁴ <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/07/1270218/tun-mohamed-dzaiddin-abdullah-peguam-pertama-jadi-ketua-hakim-negara>

⁵ https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/cms/upload_files/document/Praxis-May-Jun2007.pdf (pg. 14)

⁶ <https://m.malaysiakini.com/news/14762>

the poor, between Tyranny and the people – dispensing justice impartially and fairly, without fear or favour.”⁷

5. After retiring from the Bench in 2003, Tun Dzaiddin was appointed by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2004 to chair the Royal Commission to Enhance the Operation and Management of the Royal Malaysia Police.⁸ His seminal recommendations – including the advocacy for the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) – demonstrated his conviction that authority must always be strengthened by accountability and human dignity⁹.
6. To the Bar, Tun Dzaiddin was more than a formidable judge and an eminent Chief Justice; he never forgot the traditions, struggles and noble calling of the advocate. He reminded us that whether as counsel or presiding from the Bench, our shared, sacred duty is to serve the cause of justice without fear or favour.
7. We express our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and loved ones. We share in your profound loss and celebrate a noble life devoted to the service of the law and the nation. May the Almighty have mercy on his soul.

⁷ <https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/news/speeches/speeches/keynote-address-by-tun-mohamed-dzaiddin-b-haji-abdullah-at-ideas-conference-empowering-liberal-democratic-institutions-11-feb-2012>

⁸ https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/legal/general_news/royal_police_commission_findings_10_years_on.html?date=2018-08-01

⁹ <https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/news/speeches/speeches/speech-by-tun-mohamed-dzaiddin-bin-hj-abdullah-former-chief-justice-of-malaysia-at-the-public-forum-rogue-cops-workable-solutions-police-accountability-in-malaysia-28-may-2015>