

D. Allahyarhamah YBhg. Tan Sri Siti Norma binti Yaakob

If it pleases this Honourable Court,

1. We gather in this fourth and final session to pay tribute to a pioneer, a trail-blazer and one of the most revered figures in our country's legal history, the late Chief Judge of Malaya, Allahyarhamah YBhg. Tan Sri Siti Norma binti Yaakob¹.
2. Throughout her tenure in public service, Tan Sri Siti Norma achieved a succession of historic milestones for women in the Malaysian legal framework. In 1983, Tan Sri Siti Norma became the first woman in Malaysia to be appointed a High Court Judge then continued her ground-breaking judicial path as the first female judge elevated to the Court of Appeal in 1994 and subsequently the first female judge on the Federal Court in 2001. Her judicial service culminated in February 2005 with her appointment as Chief Judge of Malaya becoming the first woman in Malaysian history to hold one of the nation's top judicial offices².
3. To those who appeared before her, Tan Sri Siti Norma embodied her own stated ideals of a judge: patience and incorruptibility³. She combined a sharp legal intellect with unfailing courtesy, dignity and remarkable judicial temperament⁴. Her distinction was recognised internationally. In 2006, she made history as the first Malaysian to be elected President of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association⁵.
4. Following her retirement from the Bench in January 2007, she was appointed in 2008 as a judge of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts – making her the first female judge be appointed on that tribunal⁶. In her post-retirement years, she continued her contributions to society, serving as Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya, the inaugural Chairman of the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) and Chairman of RAM Holdings Berhad, alongside directorships at among others, the National Electricity Board of Malaysia and Central Bank of Malaysia⁷.
5. On behalf of the Malaysian Bar, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends and we celebrate a magnificent, historic life that enriched

¹ <https://www.um.edu.my/tan-sri-dato-seri-siti-norma-yaakob>

² <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2026/03/13/pioneering-judge-siti-norma-yaakob-dies>

³ <https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/news/bar-news/news/tan-sri-siti-norma-retires-tomorrow-after-43-years-of-exemplary-service>

⁴ <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2026/03/1396463/passing-tun-siti-norma-yaakob-great-loss-judiciary-nation>

⁵ <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2006/09/23/commonwealth-first-for-siti-norma>

⁶ <https://globalcompetitionreview.com/authors/tan-sri-dato-seri-siti-norma-yaakob>

⁷ *ibid*

our Judiciary and our nation beyond measure. May the Almighty have mercy on her soul.

My Lords, My Lady, we respectfully request that the record of these proceedings be preserved in the archives of this Court and that certified copies be conveyed to the families of the Allahyarham and Allahyarhamah whom we have honoured this morning. I am much obliged.