

PRESS STATEMENT

COURTESY VISIT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF MALAYSIA AND DELEGATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S SUPREME COURT OF THE LAO PDR

3 - 6 June 2025

The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of Malaysia, undertook an official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) from 3 to 6 June 2025, at the invitation of Her Excellency Professor Dr. Viengthong Siphandone, President of the People's Supreme Court of Lao PDR.

During the visit, the Chief Justice of Malaysia held bilateral discussions with Her Excellency Prof. Dr. Viengthong Siphandone at the People's Supreme Court of Lao PDR. The meeting was held in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

The historic bilateral meeting marked a reaffirmation of both judiciaries' commitment to strengthening cooperation under the framework of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ). Both parties conveyed a shared interest in fostering greater exchanges on judicial matters, supporting the initiatives of the ASEAN Law Association (ALA), and collaborating on the advancement of national legal professional bodies. Additionally, it was mutually agreed that further discussions should continue with the objective of formalising a Memorandum on Judicial Cooperation between the two

judiciaries. This first ever official visit reflects the shared vision of the Malaysian and Lao PDR judiciaries to uphold the rule of law, promote professional development and strengthen regional judicial cooperation in ASEAN.

On 4 June 2025, the Right Honourable Chief Justice was received in audience by His Excellency Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao PDR. His Excellency welcomed the Chief Justice's official visit as a significant step forward in fostering stronger bilateral ties between Malaysia and the Lao PDR. His Excellency underscored the importance of continued collaboration, particularly as both nations prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2026 between Malaysia and Laos PDR.

On 6 June 2025, the Chief Justice and her delegation paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. His Excellency acknowledged the longstanding cooperation between the Supreme Courts of both nations and praised the Chief Justice's efforts in promoting judicial exchanges and institutional collaboration. The Chief Justice, in turn, conveyed her appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to her and her delegation throughout the visit. One of the important agenda discussed during the meeting was the formation of the Lao PDR National ALA Committee.

Thank you.

Office of the Chief Registrar Federal Court of Malaysia Palace of Justice Putrajaya

Date: 11 June 2025