

## Subverting justice? Not on this watch!

**I** NOTE with great interest events of recent times. June 2016 marked the unearthing of several cases of arrests which sparked huge debate due to the well-connected and powerful personalities involved.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng was arrested that same month on graft charges. Not unexpectedly, this raised accusations of selective prosecution and therefore persecution of an opposition leader. At that point, these accusations seemed plausible.

A few months later, on Sept 7, two very powerful financial figures from Bank Rakyat, a government-linked bank, were also arrested and charged with CBT and abetment.

The chairman, Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Zainal, was formerly both an army general (retired) as well as Malaysian ambassador to France.

The other accused is Datuk Mustafha Abdul Razak, the bank's managing director.

In this same week of September, a Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur director, Datuk Seri Afendy Ali Syed Abid Ali, was also charged with graft.

No doubt, these accused will have their day in court. Our justice system demands that they be given a chance to defend themselves, and perhaps even receive exoneration. This is only fair and just.

Before this, however, for a long time, all law enforcement on corruption and abuse of power was a matter for mere rhetoric. It almost seemed as if most summonses were dated the twelfth of never!

Since then, much talk has arisen among the rakyat.

Looking objectively at these recent arrests, we are glad to see the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) carrying out their duties diligently and courageously.

As the arm of the law is being flexed, the message is clear: Attorney-General Tan Sri Apandi Ali and MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Zulkifli Ahmad will not tolerate the

complete and utter disregard of the law by certain sections of society.

They show that nobody is above the law, and that justice must never be subverted. Anyone attempting to do this will be hauled up, regardless of position. Truth is, both the AGC and MACC have shown that the rule of law will be upheld.

It is the talk of the town that there is a new and resolute hand at the helm. As a result, there seems to be a feeling of confidence within the country.

Indeed, why would anyone criticise somebody brave enough to clean out a pit of vipers? I say, do your job and I will eat and sleep better!

All kudos to Apandi Ali for being firm in discharging his duties. He understands that, for the sake of national interest, his remit empowers him to enforce strict adherence to the rule of law.

We, the rakyat commend him and his team for executing their duties without fear or favour. May they continue to do this so that we can regain confidence in our democratically elected government.

We, the people, now claim our right – that the criminal justice system of Malaysia be enforced to protect us against those who seek to damage our country and its people.

So, the message is loud and clear – the attorney-general of Malaysia will not countenance our criminal justice system to be undermined. And that any person on Malaysian soil, regardless of colour, creed, gender or political affiliation, will either have the benefit of its protection, or indeed, rue the sharp end of its sword, as the case may be.

It is obvious that the new attorney-general means business and is not to be trifled with. For me and scores of Malaysians, we are assured and positive of our future when we see these new beginnings. Syabas!

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