

Decision brings joy and relief to mothers

THE Council of Malaysian Women Political Leaders (Comwel) applauds the decision by the Court of Appeal to dismiss a stay application by the National Registration Department, the Home Ministry and the Federal Government on a High Court decision made in September that gives Malaysian mothers the right to confer citizenship on their children born overseas.

On Sept 9, learned Justice Akhtar

Tahir appropriately eliminated gender inequality through his wisdom in interpreting the law, stating that the word “father” must be read to include mothers when considering citizenship for children. This was made in reference to Article 14(1)(b) of the Federal Constitution together with the Second Schedule, Part II, Section 1(b) of the Constitution, which refers to citizenship rights, and Article 8(2) of the Federal

Constitution, which prohibits gender-based discrimination.

We further thank the three-member appellate bench led by Justice Kamaludin Md Said for reinforcing this landmark decision, which has brought joy and relief to all mothers with children born overseas. It is fundamental for children to have the right to be together with their mother, wherever she chooses to reside, and this right should not be

denied by anyone.

Comwel also urges the government to immediately amend the Federal Constitution to reflect the appellate court's decision.

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