CHIEF Justice Chan Sek Keong yesterday responded to critics who charge that judges make decisions that tend to favor the Government.

Chief Justice Donald MOON and the Chief Justice of Singapore, in a joint statement, defended the Independence of the Judiciary.

"The judiciary is a cornerstone of our democratic system. It provides a mechanism for resolving disputes and ensuring that the rule of law is upheld. The judiciary is independent of political influence and is not subject to political pressures.

"The independence of the judiciary is important for the protection of individual rights and freedoms. It is essential for maintaining a free and open society. The judiciary must be free to make decisions based on the law, without fear or favor.

"I urge all citizens to support the independence of the judiciary and to respect the decisions of the judiciary. The judiciary is an essential part of our democratic system and we must work together to uphold its independence.

"Thank you."