

# 'Suhakam needs proper inquiry methods'

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**PETALING JAYA, Thurs:** The government's technical committee will recommend that proper procedures for public inquiries be adopted by the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam).

Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim said this is to avoid any incidence of subjudice during the proceedings of a public inquiry.

He said the proceedings

of the public inquiry into the Jalan Kebun illegal gathering last Nov 5 had involved witnesses who were either under police investigation or on trial in court.

"They should be more cautious in evidence-gathering, especially in taking and recording statements from witnesses.

"Also, the government was not given the chance to cross-examine them."

He said the Attorney-General's Chambers has

been asked to pursue the matter, adding that the questionable procedures are among the committee's findings of the Suhakam report.

Rais heads the technical committee which proposed to scrutinise the procedures employed by Suhakam during its maiden public inquiry early this year.

The committee had met for two hours on Monday with representatives from the Home Affairs Ministry, Foreign Affairs Ministry

and the police present.

A report was later submitted to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The committee is now preparing the government's recommendations on Suhakam for Abdullah to submit to the cabinet.

The 66-page Suhakam report had found that police used excessive force, among other human rights violations, when dispersing the 5,000-odd crowd.