

Bloggers' alliance to evolve into pressure group?
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They dictate what we eat, what we say, where we go, how much we're paid, how we cut our hair and how often we pick our nose.

At every session, members of parliament decide what new laws they are going to foist on the country. And they're not alone. We have state councils, district councils, and the various political interest groups - thousands upon thousands of people whose job is very simple. They decide how we live our lives.

Then after a while, when we get bored by their proclamations, we have an election where many remain and a few are replaced but all of whom have new ideas. This is Malaysian democracy at work. And when it comes to democracy here, there's only one end product - new policies and new laws.

What I would like to share in all actuality is the recent establishment and foundation of a new interest group - National Bloggers Alliance.

The idea of collectivism in a democratic framework is nothing sparkingly brand-new to the political analyst. The Labour Union turned Labour Party and the heavy influence of the National Rifle Association (NRA) - which I blame for the Virginia Tech shooting - are classic examples of strong pressure groups that exert significant force on policymakers of a democratic country.

When blogger Jeff Ooi, during the recent Perdana Leadership Foundation Discourse Series, explained the inevitable development and prowess of bloggers as well as the idea of collective intelligence, it struck a chord in my brain that left me thinking merrily.

In fact, I decided to ask Ooi a question regarding this thought during the Q&A session but did not have the time to do so. So here's my question to Ooi, Ahiruddin Attan and the rest of the pro-tem committee of the National Bloggers Alliance:

Dear Jeff and co,

Lately, the development of the blogging scene in Malaysia has seen the establishment of the blogger's alliance - congratulations. This alliance however, is headed by many who are considered by themselves or others as socio-political bloggers. This has interested me very much as I see this alliance as a progress towards the formation or establishment of a political pressure group. Just one quick question:

Other than protecting the rights of bloggers in the country, will the alliance's agenda include political matters that would later evolve the group into a political interest/pressure alliance?

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