

'Royal insult' arrest an abuse of MCMC powers, says MP

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The arrest of a woman who allegedly insulted the Agong through several Facebook postings is an abuse of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission's (MCMC) powers, said PKR's Alor Setar MP Gooi Hsiau Leung.

The newly-elected MP said this is because nothing in the statements made by the woman and her friends amounted to threats or harassment, according to Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998.

NONE Instead, Gooi (left) - who is also a lawyer - noted that the Facebook conversation, now widely circulated online, had been referring to the Agong's speech and not against any person.

"There appears to be no legal justification whatsoever to arrest (the woman), except that it is politically motivated to satisfy BN leaders who have been publicly pressuring the MCMC to take action," he said.

As such, he added, the investigations which includes four of the woman's friends is "baseless".

Gooi stressed that the arrest is an "affront to all Malaysians" as it impedes on their freedom to speak openly without intimidation.

The woman was arrested on Monday following a police report lodged by BN leaders alleging that she had insulted the Agong.

The Agong in his speech had advised all Malaysians to accept the results of the recent general election.

The Pakatan coalition has since disputed the results, which was in favour of the BN, resulting in ongoing protest rallies throughout the nation.

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