

Gerakan echoes MIC's urging for IPCMC to be set up
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Gerakan has joined its BN coalition partner MIC urging the formation of the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) in response to death in custody victim N Dhamendran's case.

In a press release today, its Environment, Security and Quality of Life chairperson Cheah Soon Hai (right) said establishing the commission "would help restore public confidence in the police force."

NONEHe said he could not fathom the police's aversion to the IPCMC when it is needed to deal with complaints made by the public against the force.

"Public confidence in the law enforcers is crucial so they will not take matters into their own hands," he said.

He urged the police to streamline their interrogation tactics and called for the revamp of lock up and interrogation rules.

"These detainees are merely suspects; they're innocent until proven guilty, so the police must respect this cardinal principle and not take it upon themselves to decide the guilt of the suspects," he said.

'MIC, Pakatan, back IPCMC Bill'

Last week MIC spoke up for the formation of the long overdue IPCMC, saying the recommendation had to be implemented "immediately".

azlanThey were responding to Minister Paul Low's ambivalence towards the proposal as an immediate redress to the numerous custodial cases this year.

Pakatan Rakyat has also urged BN parliamentarians to support a bill on IPCMC at the first sitting of the new Parliament on June 24.

The opposition coalition's plan to push the IPCMC Bill despite lacking a majority in Parliament came after P Karuna Nithi's death on June 2, bringing the custodial death toll to three in two weeks.

Meanwhile Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) chairperson Eu Hong Seng said

the IPCMC was necessary to to ensure custodial deaths do not recur, as the present statistics were "abominable".

NONEEu said the Home Ministry's data showed the custodial death toll between 2000 and September 2012 was 209, but had risen to 221 come Jan 2013, which on average meant one death every month.

"This is an abominable statistic and a shocking state of affairs, for which the government must be held accountable," Eu said in a statement today.

He said the Enforcement Agencies Integrity Commission (EAIC) "by its own admission has not been able to address the issue satisfactorily".

"More than that, the government must put in place effective and transparent measures and operating procedures to ensure that these deaths in custody do not recur.

"Those who are vested with the power to maintain the security of our country must equally ensure the safety and well-being of those who are held in police cells pending investigations."

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