

Suara Keadilan to defy ban, printing tonight
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It will be business as usual for Suara Keadilan, as it hits the printing press tonight for the next weekly edition.

NONEPKR chief strategist Tian Chua (left) said that, as far as the party is concerned, there is no clear order to stop printing.

"The Home Ministry said verbally that our permit cannot be renewed, but then the minister said they are still considering it," he said in the Parliament lobby.

"If they want us to stop printing, they need to tell us in black and white. If not, it will be business as usual."

Chua said that PKR has been seeking a clear answer regarding Suara Keadilan's status, including trying to file a motion to debate the matter in Parliament.

Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia however rejected the motion on the premise that the publication permit is still under consideration by the Home Ministry.

Other avenues

Chua noted that, should the Home Ministry choose to enforce a ban on Suara Keadilan, the party will seek other avenues to counter the decision, including taking the matter to court.

He scoffed at the reasons given for the initial decision to suspend the publication's licence, saying that it is ridiculous for the ministry to "make up rules as it goes along".

"We've been in print for the past 10 years. Harakah has been around even longer. You can't expect us to only report on, say for example Anwar Ibrahim officiating an event," he said.

Earlier the Home Ministry said that Suara Keadilan's permit would no longer be valid with effect from July 1.

The ministry's publications and al-Quran text controls division secretary Zaitun Ab Samad had said that, because of the ruling, Suara Keadilan cannot be printed or published.

She cited provisions of the Printing Presses and Publications Act, which impose the requirement of a renewable annual licence for the printing and publishing of serial publications.

At the same time however, Zaitun said the ministry has yet to decide whether or not the party organ's permit will be renewed.

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