

**Pakatan urged to explain and retract media ban**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**12 November 2010**

ALOR SETAR - Kedah Umno wants Pakatan Rakyat (PR) to retract the ban on certain media organisations from covering the whole session of the State Legislative Assembly sitting, including the Budget session, from Sunday to Tuesday.

Kedah Gerakan Youth Chief Tan Keng Liang also urged the state government to explain its action saying the media ban was indirectly a form of censorship and in contradiction to its pledge in their Common Policies Framework (announced December, 2009), which purported to promote press freedom (Paragraph 1.2.7).

Similarly, Kedah Umno Liaison deputy chairman Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah said the ban was an act that restricted the freedom of the media to make coverage and reflected the enmity between the state government and certain media organisations.

Both Tan and Ahmad Bashah were commenting on the prohibition by the state government against TV3, TV9, TV7, RTM, Astro Awani, Utusan Malaysia, Kosmo, Berita Harian, The New Straits Times and Harian Metro from covering the session.

If the ban were not retracted, the Barisan Nasional (BN) State Assemblymen would table a motion at the sitting to allow all media organisations to cover the proceedings without exception, Bernama reported.

He said the media had never been obstructed from covering the proceedings of the State Legislative Assembly sitting in the past.

"The ban on the media freedom was most regretted and it was a violation by PAS on media freedom," he said in a media statement, here Thursday.

"Pakatan Rakyat national leaders, in particular its de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim and DAP's adviser Lim Kit Siang must immediately demand and ensure their Pakatan Rakyat Kedah government revoke their latest ban against these several media group," urged Tan.

"In the event Pakatan Rakyat refuses to revoke their latest ban on these media to cover the Kedah State Assembly, this would confirm Pakatan Rakyat's Common Policies Framework are mere rhetoric," said Tan.

Copyright © 2009 [www.malaysiamirror.com](http://www.malaysiamirror.com)

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/50479>