

**Suhakam To Hold Public Inquiry On Bersih 3.0**  
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**By Hasmy Agam - SUHAKAM**

Further to its Statement issued on 2 May 2012 on the allegations of unnecessary use of force by the police during the public assembly of 28 April 2012, the Human Rights of Commission of Malaysia (the Commission) has, upon serious consideration, decided to conduct a Public Inquiry into the above-mentioned allegations.

This decision takes into account its own monitoring of the event of 28 April 2012 and a number of other pertinent factors, including the submission of complaints, reports and memoranda from members of the public, human rights and professional groups, as well as other members of civil society to the Commission relating to the matter, which all call for an independent inquiry into the said event.

The Commission had wanted to, but can no longer await, the release of the terms of reference of the Independent Panel established by the Government as they have yet to be finalised. Notwithstanding the investigations to be conducted by the said Panel, the Commission is obliged to carry out its own Public Inquiry pursuant to its mandate as provided under the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999 (Act 597).

The Panel of Inquiry will be chaired by the Commission's Vice-Chairman Dr Khaw Lake Tee and assisted by Commissioners Professor Dr Mahmood Zuhdi b Abdul Majid and Detta Samen.

#### Terms of Reference of the Public Inquiry

The terms of reference of the Public Inquiry are:

1. To determine whether there were any violations of the human rights of any person or party during and after the public assembly on 28 April 2012;
2. If violations of human rights did occur, to determine:
  - i. How such violations came about;
  - ii. What administrative directives and procedures, or arrangements contributed to such violations; and
  - iii. Which person or agency was responsible for such violations.
3. To recommend measures to be taken to ensure that such violations do not recur.

#### Calling for Public Submissions

The Commission hereby calls for public submissions of evidence and information following the allegations of amongst others, the unnecessary use of force by the authorities during and after the public assembly on 28 April 2012. Members of the public and the media who had witnessed any acts or incidents relating to the allegations of human rights violations, or who believe that they may be able to give relevant information and/or documents and other evidence including video/photo recordings pertaining to these or other such allegations are invited to contact the Commission as soon as possible.

The deadline for Public Submission

The deadline for public submission is Monday, 4 June 2012 by 12 noon.

HASMY AGAM is Chairman of The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

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