

Malaysian Bar Wants Real Changes In Electoral System

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Bar lauded Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's announcement on electoral reforms and censorship law review.

In welcoming the initiatives, its president, Lim Chee Wee, said the Bar hoped the announcement would translate into real action with real changes soon.

He said the government should seriously consider recommendations on electoral reforms made by the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) in 2007, which included equal access to media, a longer campaign period and automatic registration of eligible voters.

In a statement here, Lim said the Bar supported the call by Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah to introduce automatic registration of voters and lower the minimum voting age from the current 21 to 18.

He said a lower minimum voting age would engage young people in the country's political process.

Monday, Najib announced the setting up of a parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms to put to rest any suspicion of government manipulation in the country's electoral process.

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