

Proham says PM must turn reformist words into action
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18 – The Association for the Promotion of Human Rights (Proham) has lauded the prime minister’s law reforms as a “high point” for human rights in Malaysia and urged Datuk Seri Najib Razak to turn rhetoric into concrete action as soon as possible.

Proham committee member Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria said Najib must table the motion to scrap the Internal Security Act (ISA) and amend other restrictive laws during the next Parliament sitting but only after consulting with civil society groups on the proposed changes.

“An inclusive democracy must ensure participation and consultation with civil society especially those that who been active in human rights advocacy,” Denison said in a statement on behalf of the Proham executive committee today.

Time must be allocated to discuss and debate the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) annual report, he added.

Denison also said the prime minister should form a permanent parliamentary select committee on human rights to review the status, promotion and development of human rights.

He stressed that Malaysia must ratify all core human rights conventions, especially the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights to consolidate human rights reform and ensure that the nation’s laws comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

“Benchmarking Malaysia on global standards is imperative and this will ensure that the human rights culture will be institutionalised and strengthen in Malaysian society,” he said.

On Thursday night, the prime minister announced that the repeal of the ISA and the three Emergency Declarations when both the Dewan Negara and Dewan Rakyat have their next sitting.

Najib said new anti-terrorism laws will be enacted to protect the peace, harmony and security of the country.

He also announced that the government will do away with annual printing and publishing permits with permits that can be cancelled if regulations are flouted.

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