

Report on Bersih rally probe ready
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By Sean Augustin

PUTRAJAYA: Investigations into alleged police misconduct during the Bersih 2.0 rally in July have been completed and will soon be tabled at a cabinet meeting.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the report would also be handed to the attorney-general for further action.

Policemen who had breached the standard operating procedure, he said, would be disciplined and the force "should not expect any favour".

Although refusing to reveal details of the report, Hishammuddin said investigations were based on events that were alleged by certain quarters.

He also said he would like for the report to be made public.

"The people can then draw their own conclusions. This is the way forward," he said.

Hishammuddin was speaking after meeting with former inspectors-general of police, here, yesterday.

Six committees to investigate alleged police misconduct were set up by the force following events that were claimed to have transpired during the Bersih rally, organised to demand electoral reforms, two months ago.

Among the allegations that emerged was that the police had fired tear gas into the Tung Shin Hospital compound.

Hishammuddin said he was happy with the report although at the end of the day, it mattered more to the rakyat.

"It is about how we are going to balance civil liberties in a modern democracy."

When asked about a news report that the Internal Security Act would be abolished, Hishammuddin said the government was looking at all possibilities, including amending the act.

On the Australian government's efforts to resurrect the refugee swap deal by pushing to change its migrant laws, Hishammuddin said this showed that the country was on the right track.

Last week, the Australian High Court ruled that the deal, which will see 800 asylum seekers sent to Malaysia in exchange for 4,000 refugees here, was unlawful.

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