

**Ban Ki-moon Lauds Establishment Of PSC On Electoral Reforms**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 22 (Bernama) -- United Nations (UN) secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon welcomed what he described as the historic establishment of a bipartisan parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms in Malaysia.

He expressed hope that the committee's final report and recommendations would take into account all legitimate concerns conveyed by the relevant stakeholders.

"I sincerely hope that the electoral reform process will lead to a truly transparent and credible system to the satisfaction of all Malaysians," he said in his special address at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs here, today.

In the speech entitled 'Malaysia and the United Nations in a Changing World', he said: "The UN stands ready to assist the government and people of Malaysia in this endeavour."

Ban, who is on a two-day official visit to Malaysia, also welcomed the repeal of the Internal Security Act 1960.

"I hope the government will ensure that the replacement law will be in full compliance with international human right standards," he said, adding that he encouraged Malaysia to sign all the core human right conventions.

Present were the Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman.

On another matter, the top UN diplomat noted that Malaysia was making significant efforts to reduce tensions between Muslim majority countries and the West through the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation.

He urged the movement to engage with the UN Alliance of Civilisation as both organisations shared similar objectives. "We can be good partners in preventing extremism and promoting tolerance," he said.

Ban, a South Korean, also thanked Malaysia for its strong support of UN core principles and contributions to the world body as he mentioned Malaysian peacekeepers' participation in some 25 UN peacekeeping missions in more than 20 countries.

In addition, Ban commended the Malaysian government for the goodwill shown towards refugees from the region and beyond all these years.

Meanwhile, he wanted Malaysia to continue sharing its experience in poverty reduction among developing countries, including those in the South-South Cooperation.

Ban, who is entering his second term at the UN's helm, said Malaysia should assume a leadership role, especially in implementing his five-year UN Action Agenda focusing on sustainable development, prevention, building a safe and more secure world by innovating

and building on UN core business, supporting nations in transition, and working with and for women and young people.

"This is your chance to assume your leadership," he said.

Ban's visit to Malaysia is his first since taking office on Jan 1, 2007.

He and his entourage comprising UN officials and staff arrived here Wednesday.

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