

**PPPA Amendment Bill Tabled For First Reading
Bernama
April 18, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 18 (Bernama) -- The Printing Presses and Publications Bill (Amendment) 2012 which seeks to remove the minister's "absolute power" in granting or refusing a printing press licence, was tabled for first reading at the Dewan Rakyat here today.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop tabled the bill, seeking to amend five parts of the Act 301. This includes to amend Subsection 3(3) of Act 301 to remove the reference to the minister's "absolute discretion" in granting or refusing a printing press licence.

It also seeks to remove minister's power to specify the period of validity of such license.

The Bill also seeks to amend Subsection 6(1) to remove the reference of minister's "absolute discretion" to grant a person a permit to print or publish a newspaper in Malaysia or in granting a proprietor of any newspaper in Singapore a permit allowing such newspaper to be imported, sold, circulated or distributed in Malaysia.

In Clause 4, the Bill seeks to amend Section 12 of Act 301 to remove the period of validity for a licence or permit and to allow such licence or permit to remain valid for so long as it is not revoked.

Clause 5 meanwhile, seeks to amend Subsection 13A(1) of Act 301 to remove prohibition of judicial review on the decision of the minister to grant, refuse to grant, revoke or suspend a licence or permit under Act 301.

Clause 6 seeks to amend Section 13B of the Act 301 to give a person an opportunity to be heard before a decision to revoke or suspend such licence or permit is made under Subsection 3(3), 6(2), or 13(1) as the case may be.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his message in conjunction with Malaysia Day last September announced that the government would review the 28-year-old Printing Presses and Publication Act.

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