

Minister Has Power To Declare Bersih As Unlawful Society
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- The High Court here Tuesday was told that Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein had the power to declare Bersih as an unlawful society and he had acted in accordance with the law.

Senior federal counsel Azizan Md Arshad said the minister's decision was also based on national security and public order and such decision was legal.

Azizan said this in his submission at the judicial review proceeding, filed by 14 members of the movement's steering committee, including Datuk S. Ambiga, against the home minister, inspector-general of police (IGP) and the government.

In his submission, Azizan also said that Ambiga and the 13 others whom she acted for this application had no locus standi and the decision of the home minister in declaring Bersih as an unlawful society was reasonable and rational.

Lawyer Tommy Thomas, who represented all the applicants, submitted that Hishammuddin had failed to act in accordance with Section 5 of the Societies Act 1966.

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