

Najib urged to form police bill come Parliament
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By Trinna Leong

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should form a new Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) when the new Parliament sits from June 24, 2013, as the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC) has failed to do its job, said Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua.

"Such a bold move is not only consistent with his pledge to carry out his transformation programmes, but will immediately win additional support from the people for his regime."

Pua also asked if the Royal Malaysian Police would threaten to hold another revolt to stop any attempt to set up the IPCMC, as they had done in 2006, when the Royal Commission of Inquiry had suggested to for the commission to be set up.

The police force, under previous Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Badawi's administration, had opposed such a formation and had warned the government that the force would vote for the opposition in the 12th general election, boycott overtime, and that its top brass would resign en bloc.

The statement came in the wake of Deputy Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Datuk Seri Mohd Bakri Zinin pooh-pooing the need for the IPCMC as current laws "are already there and (that) they are stronger than the IPCMC".

Pua demanded that there be checks and balances within the police force given its lacklustre record in dealing with crime, ill treatment of detainees and violence toward citizens during rallies.

"There are already 9 deaths under detention in less than 6 months this year," Pua said. "At the same time, various gangs armed with parangs or machetes are terrorising open-air and public eateries as well as households with increasing frequency and audacity over the past few weeks," he added.

The MP pointed to flaws in the current EAIC, which is tasked with investigating enforcement agencies including the police department.

The commission was reported to have assigned one investigator to examine 19 enforcement agencies, even employing an investigator that was previously tied to the death of Teoh Beng Hock, a political aide to the opposition party, three years ago.

He said the EAIC should be replaced because of a lack of intent to produce checks and balances within these agencies.

The EAIC was "designed to fail with not only watered-down powers, but also with limited funding of only RM7 million a year", added Pua, the DAP national publicity secretary.

The EAIC has, from its inception in September 2011 and until the end of 2012, recommended only one disciplinary action and two warnings to civil servants.

"The police should support the setting up of an IPCMC because the intent of this commission

is not to victimise the police but to increase the professionalism of the force,” Pua said. “If the police is indeed professional and act above board as claimed, then surely there will be nothing to be fearful of the IPCMC.”

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