

**Suaram: Govt should accept High Court verdict on Kugan**  
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**By Hasbullah Awang Chik**

Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram) has called on the government to accept the High Court's decision on A. Kugan and revamp the police force.

Suaram reminded Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 5 of the Federal Constitution that stated: "No person may be deprived of life or personal liberty except in accordance with the law".

"Are not the police and ministers responsible for upholding human rights?" asked Suaram co-ordinator R. Thevarajan in a statement today.

"The death of Kugan under police detention clearly showed that the cops had reacted violently and misused their power. The photos and videos of Kugan in the morgue with blood and foam coming out of his mouth had even spread across the Internet," he added.

Suaram also urged the government to be responsible and to revamp the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM).

"The credibility of the government will be tarnished in the eyes of the people when it appeals the verdict," said Thevarajan.

"The government and police need to accept the verdict and take complete responsibility for the custodial deaths."

Last week, Ahmad Zahid had announced that the government will appeal the decision by High Court Judge Datuk V.T. Singham over the verdict on Kugan's death.

Singham, in his verdict, had said former Selangor police chief and current Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar was responsible for the death of Kugan four years ago.

The court had ordered the parties involved to pay a sum of RM851,700 to Kugan's mother, N. Indra.

Meanwhile, in Parliament today, deputy Speaker Datuk Ismail Mohamed Said barred MPs from bringing up Kugan's case in the House as it would be subjudicial as the government was appealing the High Court decision.

"Even though the decision has been made, the government still has 30 days to appeal," Ismail noted. - July 1, 2013.

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