

Suhakam urges Najib to fulfill promise to repeal Sedition Act
Malaysian Insider
May 17, 2014

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should fulfill his promise in 2012 to repeal the Sedition Act 1948 and replace it with a National Harmony Act, the government's rights commission Suhakam said today.

"Najib has said the new act would provide a balance between guaranteeing freedom of speech and the need to handle the complex of plurality in Malaysia's multiracial society.

"Therefore, Suhakam calls on Putrajaya to fulfill this commitment to uphold and safeguard the rakyat's right to freedom of speech as enshrined in the Federal Constitution," Suhakam commissioner Tan Sri Hasmy Agam said today.

Hasmy said Suhakam was concerned with the continued use of the Sedition Act.

"Authorities have been prosecuting several individuals recently for allegedly making 'seditious' remarks," Hasmy noted, adding that there were other laws which to handle such matters.

He warned that the Sedition Act would criminalise freedom of speech or acts considered seditious without having to prove the intention of the accused.

Hasmy said Suhakam recognised that freedom of speech has its limits, but Putrajaya must uphold the principle of equality.

"It is important for authorities to ensure that legal action is taken and applied equally and unequivocally against all parties concerned," he added.

Several opposition leaders and activists have recently been charged for sedition, including Seputeh MP, Teresa Kok, over her controversial satirical video "Onederful Malaysia".

Before his death, DAP chairman Karpal Singh was convicted of sedition over his statement that the Sultan of Perak could be taken to court for his role in the state's constitutional crisis in 2009. – May 17, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/suhakam-urges-najib-to-fulfill-promise-to-repeal-sedition-act>