

Malaysian Bar to hold EGM to debate Sedition Act
Malaysian Insider
Sept 7, 2014
BY V. ANBALAGAN, ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Malaysian Bar will hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on September 19 to debate resolutions on the Sedition Act 1948 following a spate of prosecution against opposition leaders, activists and an academic.

Bar president Christopher Leong said the decision was made yesterday at an emergency council meeting.

"We are in the process of drafting the resolutions to be sent to our members," he told The Malaysian Insider.

He said details would be made known once the draft resolutions were sent to its more than 15,500 members.

Leong said it had to give seven days' notice for the EGM, which required a quorum of 500.

Under the Legal Profession Act 1976, an EGM could be convened by the council or at the request of at least 150 members.

"We are also in the midst of looking for a venue to convene the meeting," he said.

The last time the Malaysian Bar held an EGM was on May 11, 2012 where, members approved a resolution condemning the police for using "excessive" and "indiscriminate" force to disperse Bersih 3.0 protesters on April 28.

The resolution, passed by way of voting, also demanded apologies from the Home Minister and Inspector-General of Police to the public and members of the media over the police's conduct during the rally.

On September 2, Universiti Malaya law professor Dr Azmi Sharom was charged with sedition based on statements in an article entitled "Take Perak crisis route for speedy end to Selangor impasse, Pakatan told", which was published in a news portal on August 14.

If found guilty, Azmi could face a fine of up to RM5,000 or a maximum jail term of three years, or both.

Sabah politician David Orok was prosecuted under the same law on September 3 for allegedly insulting Islam and Prophet Muhammad on Facebook two months ago.

Over the past weeks, a number of opposition politicians – Padang Serai MP N.

Surendran (PKR), Shah Alam MP and PAS central committee member Khalid Samad, and Seri Delima assemblyman R.S.N. Rayer (DAP) – have all been charged with sedition.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok (DAP) and Batu MP Tian Chua (PKR) are also facing trial for sedition.

All these elected representatives risk losing their public office if the court imposes a fine of RM2,000 or more, or at least one year's jail term.

On Friday, Muhammad Safwan Anang, a former chairperson of Solidariti Mahasiswa Malaysia (SMM) was found guilty of sedition and sentenced to 10 months' jail over a speech delivered on May 13 last year. He is appealing the court's decision. – September 7, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/malaysian-bar-to-hold-egm-to-debate-sedition-act>