

Suhakam TN50 discourse calls for transparency in govt spending

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Participants also talk about need to respect religious values and having a hub that is transparent and filled with genuine information.

KUALA LUMPUR: Financial literacy, transparent government spending and universal religious values were among the ideas shared at a discourse held by Suhakam today to help draw up the roadmap to National Transformation 2050 (TN50).

TN50 is the new 30-year vision promoted by the government and Suhakam is organising several such discourses to gather views.

Suhakam chairman Razali Ismail said the recommendations raised at the discourse would be forwarded to the TN50 secretariat for further discussion.

Suhakam commissioner Lok Yim Pheng, who addressed today's participants, said young people needed to be taught how to manage their loans well.

"The young are burdened with housing loans, education loans, insurance premiums and high cost of medical treatment."

She said, obviously, financial literacy needs to be taught in schools.

The former secretary-general of the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) said the government should create a hub that is transparent and filled with genuine information.

"There is a lot of information on social media but some of it is misleading. Everyone should be able to get to the hub to get genuine info."

Some of the participants from student and human rights organisations raised the issue of transparency when the government spends revenue obtained from various types of taxes.

They said they did not mind paying the goods and services tax (GST) but wanted the government to be transparent on how this revenue was utilised.

A representative of Sisters in Islam spoke on the need for Malaysians to acknowledge that all religions have universal values.

“We have to see beyond the differences and look at the common values we have as part of the transformation to TN50.”

The NGO said it was important to remind Malaysians that this country is made up of different races which believed in different religions and practised different customs and traditions.

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