



## **SURUHANJAYA HAK ASASI MANUSIA MALAYSIA**

*HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

#### **SUHAKAM CALLS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MALAYSIA'S SECOND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OUTCOME**

Kuala Lumpur (21 March 2014) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (the Commission) welcomes the adoption of Malaysia's second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcome report by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) on 20 March 2014 in Geneva.

Of the 232 recommendations received from UN Member States during the review held on 24 October 2013, Malaysia has accepted 150 recommendations, 113 of which are accepted in full, 22 accepted in principle and 15 accepted partially. Malaysia did not support 83 recommendations which call for immediate changes to existing laws, regulations and policies or matters which it is not prepared to consider or commit to implement at this juncture.

Among the recommendations that enjoy the Malaysian Government's full acceptance are those relating to economic, social and cultural rights, particularly poverty eradication and education and access to health care; as well as enhancement of women's rights and gender equality and combatting human trafficking. The Government also supports recommendations relating to the strengthening of national human rights mechanisms, as well as promotion and protection of the rights of Persons with Disabilities, children, and foreign workers' access to justice.

The Commission had hoped that the Malaysian Government would consider positively and accept as many recommendations as possible towards reaffirming its human rights commitment to improve human rights at the domestic level. Nonetheless, the Commission regrets that the recommendations relating to accession to core human rights treaties, national law reform and the abolition of the death penalty were among the many recommendations not supported by the Government. The Commission is concerned this will continue to hinder the country from improving its human rights record as well as in achieving developed nation status by the end of the decade.

The Commission is also disappointed to note that the Government did not support six significant recommendations concerning Indigenous Peoples, particularly recommendations pertaining to their land rights which were also in line with the recommendations contained in the Commission's Report of the Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia (National Inquiry Report).

Although the Commission notes that the Government's position in this regard was to avoid pre-empting the outcome of the Task Force that it established in 2013 to study the Commission's National Inquiry Report, the Commission reiterates the urgent need for the Government to ensure early and effective implementation of the recommendations derived from the Commission's National Inquiry report, given the long-standing nature of the problems facing the Indigenous communities in Malaysia.

The Commission looks forward to the Government's effective implementation of the recommendations and meaningful consultation with various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, on the UPR follow-up, within the next four and a half years, prior to the next review in 2018. The Commission further hopes that the Government revisit some of the recommendations it was unable to accept, as stated in Malaysia's second UPR outcome report.

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***"HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL"***

**TAN SRI HASMY AGAM**

Chairman

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

21 March 2014