



**MEDIA STATEMENT  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

**EDITOR, NEWS DESK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**KUALA LUMPUR (25 FEBRUARY 2019)** - The Human Right Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) denounces the statements made by Barisan Nasional (BN) Secretary General YB Dato' Sri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz regarding the appointments of non-Malays to the positions of Chief Justice, Attorney General and Finance Minister. These statements were clearly intended to incite racial hatred and discontent for the purpose of winning votes in the Semenyih by-election.

There is no law that dictates that these positions must be occupied by a Malay. It is the sole discretion and judgement of the duly elected Government to appoint those who will best fulfil these roles for the sake of all Malaysians, and not just Malays alone. Outdated views on racism can no longer be tolerated in Malaysia Baharu, where employment – particularly into the civil service – must take into account primarily competency for any appointment.

Furthermore, Dato' Sri Nazri's claims that the death of firefighter Muhamad Adib Mohd Kassim has gone unpunished due to the fact that the Attorney General is not Malay is extremely offensive. Attorney General Tommy Thomas had ordered the inquest into Adib's death in accordance with Section 339 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code and had rejected an interim motion to stay the inquest pending the March 4 hearing as his death is a matter of public interest. The law must be allowed to complete its course before any punishment can be meted.

SUHAKAM recognises the special position of the Malays as an affirmative action as embedded in the Federal Constitution. However, the protection of this position is not in opposition with the aforementioned appointments of non-Malays.

In light of these remarks by a senior politician, SUHAKAM reiterates the call for the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) to prevent and eradicate all manifestations and practices of racial, religious and national hatred.

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**Tan Sri Razali Ismail  
Chairman  
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)  
25 FEBRUARY 2019**

*Media queries: Contact Ms. Hana Shazwin Azizan) at 03-2612 5606 or hana@suhakam@gmail.com*

***“Human Rights For All”***

For enquiries contact the Commission's front desk on 03-2612 5600