



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (5 FEBRUARY 2020) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) is deeply concerned by the conviction and sentencing of a disabled man who attempted suicide in Kuala Terengganu. The person with disabilities (PWD) in question was convicted without legal representation.

Since 2019, the Government has made several statements which indicate the intention to decriminalise suicide by amending Sections 305, 306 and 309 of the Penal Code. The Government anticipates that the tabling of this Bill will be possible by mid-2020.

In light of this, SUHAKAM strongly believes that the PWD should not have been arrested and charged in the first place.

Suicide is often the last resort for those experiencing deep emotional anguish who feel that they have no other alternatives. The Commission believes that survivors of attempted suicide should be accorded the support and rehabilitation they need rather than to be treated like criminals.

SUHAKAM calls upon the Attorney-General to review this case and to refer it to the High Court to revise the conviction. SUHAKAM would also support the High Court's move to revise the conviction on its own motion.

SUHAKAM also supports the Malaysian Bar Council's call for a moratorium on all cases related to suicide until the Penal Code is amended, as has been the practice with the mandatory death penalty.

**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
5 February 2020**

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