



**PRESS STATEMENT**

**KUALA LUMPUR (1 DECEMBER 2020)** - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) is disappointed that its 2019 Annual Report will not be debated in Parliament this year.

SUHAKAM's 2019 Annual Report, which was tabled earlier in Parliament on 4 November, highlights numerous pressing human rights issues in the country which need urgent action by the Government. The Annual Report also contains SUHAKAM's recommendations relating to the rights of the vulnerable communities including the indigenous peoples, women and children, victims of human trafficking, refugees and asylum seekers and workers.

SUHAKAM notes that Section 21 of its enabling Act, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999, does not specifically mention that the Annual Report has to be debated in Parliament. Nevertheless, SUHAKAM is of the view that it is crucial for the Annual Report to be debated in Parliament as it will allow Members of Parliament to critically discuss human right issues of public interest in Malaysia and propose possible solutions to these issues.

SUHAKAM's Annual Report was debated in Parliament for the first time on 5 December 2019 and SUHAKAM hopes that this practice would be continued this year and in future. SUHAKAM also urges the Government to recognise the importance of human rights issues as part of the Government's regular affairs, especially in parliamentary debates.

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**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)**

**1 December 2020**

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