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Check Against Delivery



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)

**Transcript of SUHAKAM's Statement on the
Adoption of the Outcome of Malaysia's Universal Periodic Review
Second Cycle**

***25th Session of the Human Rights Council
Palais des Nations, Geneva, 20 March 2014***

Mr. President.

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) had looked forward to the Government of Malaysia accepting most of the 232 recommendations that were made; nevertheless, the Commission commends the Government for accepting those 149 recommendations and expresses the hope that they will be diligently implemented during the current UPR cycle. SUHAKAM further suggests that the accepted recommendations form the content of Malaysia's National Human Rights Action Plan, currently being developed.

The Commission would also urge that accession to the remaining core international human rights treaties be given priority. To this end, the work of the Committees established by the Government to study the feasibility of accession to the ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD and CAT should be accelerated. Nevertheless, SUHAKAM acknowledges the Government's laudable progress in the realm of ESCR, namely in poverty eradication and on the rights to health and education.

SUHAKAM welcomes the Government's decision to establish a national task force to look into the expeditious implementation of recommendations contained in the Commission's National Inquiry Report into the Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

SUHAKAM expresses its concern over the re-invigoration of detention without trial in Malaysia, through amendments to the Prevention of Crime Act 1959 as well as the enactment of the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012. SUHAKAM reiterates that detention without trial goes against the rights to personal liberty, to fair trial and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and thus, should be eliminated.

Finally, SUHAKAM underscores the right of civil society to actively contribute towards good governance. SUHAKAM welcomes the increasing attention among NGOs towards the UPR process. We believe that this is an invaluable opportunity for the Government to work with civil society towards achieving mutual human rights interests. Their participation should not be seen as a threat; and SUHAKAM regrets any punitive action taken by the authorities against NGOs for their involvement in human rights issues.

Thank you.