



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

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (15 APRIL 2021) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) is appalled by recent media reports that an employer had allegedly assaulted, tortured as well as having threatened two workers with a weapon, for fasting at the start of Ramadhan this week. Such actions do not motivate workers to work harder, nor does it promote a healthy working environment, instead, reinforces the negative perception about Malaysian employers and companies in terms of the lack of protection and respect for their workers' rights. SUHAKAM calls for the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and that the perpetrators ought to be prosecuted for the alleged assault, battery and any other breaches of the law.

In line with Article 11 of the Federal Constitution which states "Every person has the right to profess and practise his religion", SUHAKAM wishes to highlight the importance of respecting everyone's freedom to manifest his or her religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching, and that no one deserves to be subjected to any form of assault, insult, or humiliation for doing so.

In this regard, employers should strive to respect and protect freedom of religion or belief, including workers' rights to profess, practice and propagate their religious beliefs even at the workplace. SUHAKAM strongly urges employers of every sector or industry, to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to prevent and eliminate all forms of religious intolerance, inequality and discrimination. SUHAKAM wishes to emphasise the need to foster a culture of respect, tolerance, equality and non-discrimination in society and stresses that all quarters have a role in creating an environment that respects and embraces racial and religious diversity.

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Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

15 April 2021

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"Human Rights For All"

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