



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT BY SUHAKAM AND THE MALAYSIAN BAR

SUHAKAM AND THE MALAYSIAN BAR JOINTLY ORGANISE INTENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND LITIGATION TRAINING

KUALA LUMPUR (12 JULY 2024) – The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and The Malaysian Bar are delighted to announce a collaborative effort to organise a series of Intensive Human Rights Law and Litigation Training programs for young lawyers and SUHAKAM officers. Beginning in August 2024 and extending through mid-June 2026, these training sessions will be held in Sabah, Penang, and Sarawak.

The training programs will cover a diverse array of critical human rights issues relevant to Malaysia's socio-political landscape. Topics to be addressed include Statelessness, Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Land Encroachment, Children's and Women's Rights, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Information, Right to Life, and Freedom of Religion.

The official launch of the training program took place at SUHAKAM's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. The ceremony was attended by SUHAKAM Chairman YBhg. Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin Md Yunus and Malaysian Bar President Mr Mohamad Ezri Abdul Wahab, who formally inaugurated the training initiative. The event was also attended by SUHAKAM Commissioners, YBhg. Prof. Dato' Noor Aziah Mohd Awal, YBhg. Datuk Mariati Robert and YBrs. Dr Chew Chee Ming; Co-Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Bar Council Human Rights Committee, Ms Cassandra Nicole Thomazios and Mr Abang Iwawan; and Mr Eero Oinonen, Political Officer from the Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia.

The primary objective of this training initiative is to instill core human rights values among young lawyers, fostering a commitment to universal human rights principles in Malaysia. Participants will acquire in-depth knowledge of legal frameworks, judicial precedents, and litigation strategies pertinent to human rights issues. SUHAKAM and the Malaysian Bar anticipate that this program will promote engagement with grassroots

communities, strengthen civil society organisations (CSOs), and encourage pro bono legal support.

This comprehensive training initiative, which aims to benefit approximately 100 young lawyers and selected SUHAKAM officials, represents a financial commitment of approximately RM250,000. The training is wholly funded by the European Union Grant Project titled “Advancing Human Rights in Malaysia via Strategic Approaches in Education and Awareness Raising.”

The meeting also discussed increasing access to justice for vulnerable populations, prison reforms including measures to counteract prison overcrowding, as well as the ratification of international human rights treaties such as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), and the 1951 Refugee Convention. The meeting further discussed strengthening collaboration between SUHAKAM and the Malaysian Bar.

SUHAKAM and the Malaysian Bar are enthusiastic about the positive impact of this training program and are dedicated to nurturing a new generation of human rights advocates committed to advancing social justice and equality in Malaysia.