



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

**EDITOR, NEWS DESK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING AND AFTER THE  
INCIDENT ON 17 JANUARY 2025 AT TAIPING PRISON, PERAK.**

**FINAL DECISION OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY PANEL**

**KUALA LUMPUR (25 MAY 2026)** - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) conducted a Public Inquiry into Human Rights Violations During and After the Incident on 17 January 2025 at Taiping Prison, Perak. The Public Inquiry was convened following a complaint received by SUHAKAM on 3 February 2025 from family members of the High Court Detainees (“HCDs”).

The complaint alleged that a group of HCDs had been subjected to human rights violations at Taiping Prison, Perak. Among the allegations of human rights violations brought to SUHAKAM’s attention were:

- i. A riot incident involving the use of force by Taiping Prison staff against approximately 80 to 100 HCDs, resulting in injuries; and
- ii. The incident also resulted in the death of an HCD named Gan Chin Eng.

Following this, SUHAKAM initiated a Public Inquiry into the incident that occurred on 17 January 2025 at Taiping Prison. The Public Inquiry proceedings commenced on 9 June 2025 and lasted for 3 months and 2 weeks, with the final proceedings (oral submissions) held on 15 December 2025. A total of 50 witnesses testified, and 127 exhibits were tendered during the proceedings.

As a result of the Public Inquiry, the Inquiry Panel confirmed that human rights violations against the HCDs had occurred during and after the incident on 17 January 2025 at Taiping Prison, Perak, as follows:

- i. Excessive physical violence was inflicted by a large number of prison staff against the HCDs during the transfer operation from Hall B to Block E on 17 January 2025;
- ii. Prison staff abused the use of weapons and security equipment such as batons and pepper spray;
- iii. Negligence and incompetence among senior officers of Taiping Prison;
- iv. Serious overcrowding issues at Taiping Prison;
- v. Prolonged remand detention periods;
- vi. Financial allocation constraints from the Government;
- vii. Negligence and failure in providing medical treatment to injured HCDs;
- viii. Elements of falsification in medical record documentation;
- ix. HCDs were subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment following the incident on 17 January 2025;
- x. Police reports lodged against the HCDs contained false information;
- xi. The Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) failed to conduct a separate investigation into the acts of violence committed by prison staff against the HCDs; and
- xii. Significant delays by the Attorney General’s Chambers in reviewing the PDRM investigation papers and initiating charges in court.

In this regard, the Public Inquiry Panel has proposed the following recommendations:

- a) Disciplinary action to be taken against the management and staff of Taiping Prison;
- b) PDRM to conduct a separate investigation into the acts of violence committed by prison staff against the HCDs;
- c) To conduct a comprehensive study on alternatives to remand and imprisonment in addressing prison overcrowding issues;
- d) To abolish the practice of the bucket system at Taiping Prison and all prison institutions;

- e) To conduct regular and comprehensive training to all Taiping Prison staff;
- f) To ensure that detainees' basic needs are consistently met;
- g) To improve medical and healthcare facilities in prison institutions;
- h) To review the continued operation of Taiping Prison at its current site, taking into account its gazettement as a Heritage Building; and
- i) Accession to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).

The full report of the Public Inquiry can be accessed at  
<https://suhakam.org.my/publications/national-public-inquiry-reports/>

or scan QR code below:



**Final Decision**



**Written Submission**

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**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)  
25 May 2026**