



**Majlis Peguam
Bar Council Malaysia**

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**Circular No 112/2018
Dated 26 Apr 2018**

To Members of the Malaysian Bar

**Public Forum on Role of the Media in GE14 in the Context of
the Anti-Fake News Act 2018 and Contemporary Human Rights Issues**

The Bar Council is deeply troubled by the enactment of the Anti-Fake News Act 2018, which came into operation on 11 Apr 2018.

The legislation raises many questions regarding its content, intent and impact. It criminalises “fake news”, but since that is not clearly defined, it could be used to suppress freedom of expression in the context of expressing views or opinions. This concern is particularly relevant in the context of the imminent 14th General Election (“GE14”).

The Anti-Fake News Act 2018 is wholly inconsistent with the right to freedom of speech and expression, which is guaranteed in Article 10(1)(a) of the Federal Constitution. The far-reaching effect of the Anti-Fake News Act 2018 renders the exercise of that fundamental right ineffective or illusory. This legislation enables the Government to immediately silence “fake news”, and will result in the intimidation of the media and honest practitioners of freedom of expression.

The Bar Council Human Rights Committee (“HRC”) is organising a public forum to address the abovementioned issues. Details of the public forum are as follows:

Date: 2 May 2018 (Wednesday)
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm (*Registration will begin at 5:00 pm*)
Venue: Raja Aziz Addruse Auditorium, Wisma Badan Peguam Malaysia
(formerly known as Wisma Straits Trading), Unit 2-02A, 2nd Floor
2 Leboh Pasar Besar, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

List of confirmed panellists:

- (1) **Chin Sung Chew**, *General Secretary, National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia;*
- (2) **Dr Professor Gurdial Singh Nijar**, *Member of the Bar; and Deputy President, HAKAM;*
- (3) **Dato’ Mah Weng Kwai**, *Commissioner, SUHAKAM; and Former Court of Appeal Judge; and*
- (4) **Premesh Chandran**, *Chief Executive Officer, Malaysiakini.*



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The welcoming address will be delivered by George Varughese, President of the Malaysian Bar, and the forum will be moderated by Roger Chan Weng Keng, Co-Chairperson of HRC and Secretary of the Malaysian Bar.

After the forum, a candlelight vigil will be held to protest against the passing of the draconian Anti-Fake News Act 2018, as follows:

Date: 2 May 2018 (Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 pm

Venue: Bar Council, 15 Leboh Pasar Besar, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

To attend the forum, kindly register online [here](#).

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Anusha Gopala Krishnan, Officer, by telephone at 03-2050 2097, or by email at anusha@malaysianbar.org.my.

Thank you.

Roger Chan Weng Keng and Mansoor Saat
Co-Chairpersons
Human Rights Committee