

MEDIA STATEMENT

Parliament needs to convene as soon as possible

Kuala Lumpur, 26 February 2021 – The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) welcomes a statement released on 24 February 2021 in which the DYMM YDPA Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah advised that Parliamentary sitting can convene during the Emergency order.

A state of Emergency was declared on 12 January 2021 with the supposed objective of curbing the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the declaration, Parliament and all state legislative assemblies were and continue to be suspended.

IDEAS Chief Executive Officer, Tricia Yeoh says, "The advice from the Agong is timely. He has clearly stated that he had agreed to the Emergency in January solely as a proactive move to curb the pandemic, and that in fact a Parliamentary sitting can be called for during an Emergency."

Istana Negara in a statement on Wednesday issued by the Comptroller of the Royal Household, Dato' Indera Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin said that the Agong stated his view that Parliament can resume on a date deemed suitable by His Majesty upon the advice of the Prime Minister when he granted an audience to Speakers of Dewan Negara and Dewan Rakyat.

"Further, the fact that the government has not implemented anything new under the Emergency in combatting the pandemic that it could not do under the MCO again begs the question of why the Emergency was called", Yeoh further comments.

"Parliament – as well as all Parliamentary Select Committees – needs to reconvene as soon as possible to ensure elected representatives resume their paid duties. If schools and conferences can begin actively functioning very soon, there is no reason as to why Parliament cannot reconvene. Safe procedures can be put into place to avoid any spread of the virus. In addition, with the vaccination rollout having begun and Members of Parliament being prioritized as part of Phase 1, there is even less reason to fear infection," Yeoh concluded.

IDEAS calls for the Prime Minister to immediately call for the convening of the Parliament sitting in the earliest chance possible as it is an essential element of our parliamentary democracy, providing legislative oversight and governance at a crucial time in which our national economic stimulus packages and the National Immunisation Plan are being implemented across the country.

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About IDEAS

The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) is a nonprofit research institute, dedicated to promoting solutions to public policy challenges, focussing on three overarching missions – advancing a competitive economy, ensuring trust in institutions and promoting an inclusive Malaysia. IDEAS is Malaysia's first independent think tank, free of personal interests and partisan influences. For more information, visit www.ideas.org.my.

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Kenyataan Media

Parlimen perlu bersidang secepat mungkin

Kuala Lumpur, 26 Februari 2021 - Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (IDEAS) mengalu-alukan kenyataan yang dikeluarkan pada 24 Februari 2021 yang mengandungi nasihat oleh DYMM YDPA Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibnu Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah bahawa sidang Parlimen boleh diadakan dalam perintah Darurat.

Satu perintah Darurat telah diisytiharkan pada 12 Januari 2021 yang bertujuan mengekang wabak COVID-19. Sebahagian daripada pengisytiharan arahan perintah Darurat tersebut, Parlimen dan Dewan Undangan Negeri telah digantung.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif IDEAS, Tricia Yeoh berkata, "Nasihat dari Agong ini tepat pada masanya. Tuanku dengan jelas menyatakan bahawa baginda bersetuju dengan perintah Darurat pada Januari lalu semata-mata sebagai satu langkah proaktif untuk mengekang wabak, dan sidang Parlimen sememangnya boleh diadakan ketika Darurat."

Istana Negara pada hari Rabu melalui Datuk Pengelola Bijaya Diraja, Dato' Indera Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin telah mengeluarkan kenyataan media menyatakan bahawa Yang Dipertuan Agong berpandangan Parlimen boleh kembali bersidang pada satu tarikh yang dirasakan sesuai oleh baginda berdasarkan nasihat Perdana Menteri ketika baginda menerima menghadap Yang Dipertua Dewan Negara dan Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat.

"Tambahan pula, tiada sebarang pelaksanaan undang-undang baharu di bawah perintah Darurat dalam mengekang wabak yang tidak dapat dilaksanakan di bawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) kembali menimbulkan persoalan mengapa perintah Darurat diisytiharkan," Yeoh mengulas lagi.

"Parlimen - dan juga semua Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Parlimen - perlu kembali bersidang secepat mungkin untuk memastikan para wakil rakyat dapat menjalankan tugas mereka. Jika sekolah dan persidangan dapat kembali beroperasi tidak lama lagi, tidak ada sebab mengapa Parlimen tidak boleh bersidang. Prosedur yang selamat boleh dilaksanakan supaya dapat mengelakkan penyebaran virus. Bahkan, vaksinasi juga sudah dimulakan dan Ahli-ahli Parlimen diberikan keutamaan sebahagian dari Fasa 1, semakin kurang alasan kekhuatiran terhadap jangkitan," simpul Yeoh.

IDEAS menyeru Perdana Menteri untuk segera memanggil Parlimen bersidang sesegera mungkin kerana Parlimen merupakan satu elemen penting dalam demokrasi berparlimen, memberikan pengawasan perundangan dan tadbir urus pada saat yang penting ketika pakej rangsangan ekonomi negara dan Pelan Imunisasi Kebangsaan sedang dilaksanakan di seluruh negara.

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Mengenai IDEAS

Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (IDEAS) merupakan sebuah institut penyelidikan bukan berasaskan keuntungan, mengkhususkan kepada mempromosikan penyelesaian terhadap cabaran dasar awam, menumpukan kepada tiga misi menyeluruh - memajukan sebuah ekonomi yang kompetitif, memastikan keyakinan dalam institusi, dan mempromosikan sebuah negara Malaysia yang merangkumi semua. IDEAS merupakan badan pemikir bebas pertama Malaysia, tanpa kepentingan peribadi serta pengaruh berpihak. Untuk maklumat lanjut, lawati www.ideas.org.my.

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