



PERSATUAN PEGAWAI-PEGAWAI KANAN POLIS BERSARA MALAYSIA
(RETIRED SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA)

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PRESS RELEASE ON IPCMC

The Retired Senior Police Officers'

Association of Malaysia (RESPA) welcome the decision to refer the Independent Police Complaints of Misconduct Commission (IPCCM) Bill 2019 to a Parliamentary Select Committee. Credit must be given to the government, the Speaker of Dewan Rakyat and Members of Parliament for wisely opting a way forward, ensuring that this Bill if ever it becomes law will be well respected by all stakeholders and equitable to members of the police force. RESPA recalls that in 1985, the government enacted a law dedicated to fighting dangerous drugs trafficking called the Dangerous Drugs Act (Special Preventive Measures) 1985. This law remains until today as one of a better conceived and well drafted legislation produced by a Special Select Committee of Parliament whose members were appointed to the Committee by the government. Similarly, a law of such national importance and of strategic consequences as IPCCM Bill deserves to be crafted by the best legal minds our Parliament could offer if it is to meet the expectation of its proponents. Granted that it is beyond the ordinary to expect a perfect law however well designed, but IPCCM is at the forefront of political conversation over the last fifteen years, hence is in dire need of a satisfactory ending. A Special Select Committee of Parliament which will allow views to be articulated by members of the public, NGOs and the police themselves could help to shape a just and fair law. Therefore, the move to entrust a Special Select Committee of Parliament with this assignment is a wise decision that must rightfully be lauded.

There is however something peculiar to the handling of this Bill. The Minister at Prime Minister's Department who is given the responsibility of steering this Bill at Dewan Rakyat for the Second Reading said he wanted to introduce a number of amendments to the text already circulated to members of Parliament at First Reading back in July this year. This attempt to re-write the Bill galvanised Members of Parliament who went on to protest that not only were they given scant time to digest the amendments but also the limited time given to properly debate the proposed law. Although the government, at that stage, could still bulldoze the Bill given its majority in the Dewan but by doing so, it could then hardly enhance its image as a reformist government and worse reinforce the prevailing views that the Bill was a rushed job to meet its promise in the manifesto.

We, in RESPA would like to reiterate our position given twice in the last one month at Consultation Forums organised to seek feedbacks from interested parties on IPCCM Bill, that the proposed law is outside the constitutional boundaries of Article 140 of the Federal Constitution. We are of the view that the text of the Bill as it is framed now is unlikely to survive an *exercise of Disciplinary*