

IRC makes seven recommendations on institutional reform (Updated)

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Institutional Reforms Committee (IRC) will be submitting its final report with seven key recommendations to the Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) soon.

IRC member Datuk Mah Weng Kwai said the committee has submitted its fourth report to the council with the final one to be submitted by July 15. "All the reports will of course be considered by the CEP and the Government," he told reporters after a meeting with the council at Ilham Tower, here today.

Among the reforms, he added, include the structure and appointments of those leading key institutions.

The institutions are Parliament, the judiciary, police, Attorney-General's Chambers, Auditor-General's Department, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

Also present was National Human Rights Society (Hakam) president Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan, who said the recommendations submitted to the council in the final report next month will be separated into three categories – immediate, mid-term and long-term.

"It is not a lot of time, but we have key recommendations which we will put forward that are going to make a difference in the country. Our priority agenda remains the same, that is zero tolerance for corruption and appointing the right people to key positions," she said.

She did not disclose the recommendations but said their main objective was for the institutions to achieve zero-corruption and serve the needs of the people with integrity.

IRC is currently looking into:

>> revamping the structure of judicial appointments;

- >> limiting the concentration of executive power of a single individual;
- >> abolition of oppressive legislation, namely the Anti-Fake News Act 2018 and the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012;
- >> reforms in enforcement and government agencies;
- >> parliamentary reforms,
- >> vetting processes for key public appointments with the aim of achieving a corruption-free society.

The IRC, which falls under the Council of Eminent Persons, comprises retired Court of Appeal judges Datuk KC Vohrah, Mah, Ambiga, National Patriots Association president Datuk Mohamed Arshad Raji, and constitutional law expert Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi.