

# **PROHAM supports the call for setting up the Royal Commission of Inquiry (“RCI”)**

PROHAM supports the Bar Council’s call for a royal commission of inquiry (“RCI”) to be set up in light of the recent explosive allegations of judicial interference and misconduct.

These allegations, if not investigated, will further erode public confidence in the judiciary.

The RCI should look into all the allegations of judicial interference and misconduct as alleged, not only in the affidavit of the learned Judge of the Court of Appeal; Justice Hamid Sultan Abu Backer, but also as alleged by Lawyers for Liberty.

The RCI should investigate the criminal nature of the alleged judicial interference and misconduct and subsequently suggest any criminal charges or actions to be taken against those suspected to be involved.

The RCI should also make recommendations to ensure the doctrine of separation of powers especially the independence of the judiciary is restored in order to re-establish public confidence in the independence and integrity of the judiciary. An independent judiciary is vital in a democracy as citizens look to the judiciary to protect their rights. An independent judiciary must therefore act impartially without fear or favour and without bowing down to external pressures.

Judicial independence is sacrosanct in maintaining the rule of law. Judicial independence embodies both the individual and institutional aspects. As an institution, the Judiciary must be independent of the other branches of government namely the Legislative and the Executive. At the same time within the judiciary, individual judges must discharge their constitutional responsibilities and duties in an independent and impartial manner without any influence or pressure whatsoever.

Hence PROHAM similarly calls on the government to set up a RCI as soon as possible to look into and investigate these allegations of judicial interference and misconduct and reiterate our support for all and any calls for the same.

**Datuk Kuthubul Zaman Bukhari**  
**Chairman**

Ivy Josiah  
Secretary General