



FOLLOWING up on the previously held dialogue session with political parties' representatives on the proposed Social Inclusion Act 2012, SABM and HAKAM held another dialogue session on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012 on the same subject with representatives from Civil Society Organisations, and also interested members of public.

In an engaging and stimulating discussion that followed the presentation by SABM-HAKAM,

representatives from Women's Aid Organisation, Islamic Renaissance Front, Projek Dialog, LoyarBurok/UndiMsia, Seniors Aloud, Micah Mandate and Rakan KL among others, posed questions about the proposed Act and volunteered their invaluable ideas and suggestions about how to carry the initiative forward.

In principle, all those who attended were in agreement generally about the need to address the serious issue of poverty and marginalisation in our country and with the proposed Act. Opinions and suggestions were put forth as to the form the provisions in the proposed Act should take and the details to be included, with a view to improving and strengthening the proposed provisions.

SABM and HAKAM are taking these ideas and suggestions on board and will be working with all organisations and individuals who are keen and willing to take this civil society initiative further.

The proposed Social Inclusion Act was launched by SABM and HAKAM on 14 August 2012. It is a proposal to urgently address the root causes of poverty and marginalisation in a non-partisan manner. It proposes a new policy paradigm and delivery mechanism that depoliticises the implementation of socially inclusive programmes to address poverty and marginalisation.

It proposes the establishment of a Social Inclusion Commission directly answerable to Parliament. The Commission would be mandated to oversee all matters pertaining to poverty reduction and social inclusiveness.

Thank you.

***Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM) and National Human Rights Society (HAKAM)***