

**SPEECH**  
**YB MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT**  
**(LAW AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM)**

**LAUNCH OF DIALOGUE SESSION ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL  
EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA**

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Distinguished guests, esteemed members of the legal fraternity,  
academics, students, and all present here today,

**Assalamualaikum wrt. wbt.**

**Salam sejahtera dan salam Malaysia MADANI.**

1. On behalf of Kerajaan MADANI, I am honoured to be here today. It is indeed an honour to be here this evening to officiate this public forum and dialogue organised by the **Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department ('BHEUU, JPM')** on the future of legal education in Malaysia. This discussion comes at a critical juncture as our legal landscape is rapidly evolving, and it is imperative that we ensure our **legal education system remains relevant, progressive and capable of producing highly competent legal professionals.**

**Challenges Faced by the CLP Exam and LPQB**

2. As we discuss legal education reform, it is necessary to address the longstanding issues surrounding the **Certificate in Legal Practice**

**(CLP) examination** and the **Legal Profession Qualifying Board (LPQB)**. For years, concerns have been raised about the **lack of transparency, inconsistency in examination standards and limited accessibility** for law graduates seeking to qualify for legal practice in Malaysia.

3. The **limited number of CLP examination attempts** and the **high failure rates** have contributed to significant frustration among aspiring lawyers. Many have argued that the existing system disproportionately disadvantages certain groups, particularly those from private institutions who do not have access to alternative qualification routes. These have caused unnecessary uncertainty for many candidates who are eager to move forward in their legal careers.
4. The government is committed to addressing these challenges by collecting feedback from various stakeholders. To that end, this dialogue session is a step in the right direction in harnessing valuable inputs from esteemed members of the dialogue session and the attendees present here.

## **Reform Agenda**

5. Since helming government in late 2022, the MADANI government under the leadership of Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, has made significant strides in legal reforms to our civil and criminal laws. In this endeavour, the legal profession has not been excluded.
6. In December 2024, this government tabled the **Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill 2024** in Parliament, which was passed by both Houses of Parliament. These amendments marked a significant step in enhancing Malaysia's legal sector by aligning it with international standards by **elevating qualification criteria, streamlining lawyer registration processes, and strengthening financial oversight**, the amendments promote **greater transparency and integrity** within the profession. These changes are expected to **spur economic growth, attract top legal talent, and reinforce public confidence** in our justice system.

7. BHEUU, JPM remains unwavering in its dedication to **ensuring equitable access to justice** for all Malaysians, regardless of their background or circumstances. **Public defenders play a crucial role** in this mission by providing legal representation to those who cannot afford it, upholding the **principles of fairness, equality, and the rule of law**. Their efforts are instrumental in **protecting the rights of the vulnerable** and reinforcing public trust in the justice system.
8. Recognizing the need for a more **comprehensive and modernized legal aid framework**, the Cabinet has recently approved the **replacement of the Legal Aid Act 1971** with a new, more inclusive legislation. This transformative step will **enhance the capacity** of Jabatan Bantuan Guaman (JBG) to extend its services across **criminal, civil, and Syariah matters**, ensuring greater accessibility and efficiency in legal aid.
9. As part of this reform, **Yayasan Bantuan Guaman Kebangsaan (YBGK) will be integrated into JBG**, and a **dedicated Public Defence Division** will be established. This strengthened structure aims to **broaden access to justice**, making legal aid more **comprehensive, inclusive, and aligned with the principles of the rule of law**.
10. The existing legal aid framework will **remain in place**, with **private sector lawyers continuing to provide legal assistance under JBG's management**, while the government will **bear the associated costs**. We hope to receive the support of all stakeholders here today in making these critical reforms a success and ensuring justice remains accessible to all.

## **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Legal Practice**

11. Another critical aspect of today's discussion is the **role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal profession**. AI is no longer a distant concept—it is already transforming legal research, contract review, and even dispute resolution. The integration of AI into legal practice presents both opportunities and challenges.
12. On one hand, AI can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance access to legal services. However, there is also concern over **job**

**displacement, ethical dilemmas, and the potential for bias in AI-driven decision-making.** As we embrace technological advancements, we must ensure that AI serves as an enabler rather than a replacement for human legal expertise. This requires regulatory frameworks that govern the use of AI in law and ensure its ethical application.

13. BHEUU, JPM is set to launch the **Roadmap to AI Legal Justice.** This initiative is designed to **enhance digital capabilities within the legal sector**, driving innovation and efficiency while **ensuring greater access to justice for all Malaysians.** Through this roadmap, we aim to modernise legal processes, streamline digital integration, and empower legal professionals with the tools needed to navigate the evolving digital landscape effectively.
14. As we look toward the future, legal education must evolve to meet the demands of a changing world. We must cultivate a legal profession that is **ethical, competent, and adaptable to new challenges.** Through initiatives such as the modernization of legal education, the responsible integration of AI, and the strengthening of professional training, we can ensure that Malaysia's legal system remains strong and continues to uphold justice for all.
15. In tandem with this development, BHEUU, JPM will organise **The Justice Hackathon - Youth & Tech Innovators Solving Legal Challenges** which aims to bridge the gap between law and technology by bringing together law and IT students to **develop innovative legal tech solutions.** As legal services increasingly require digital transformation, this hackathon **empowers young innovators** to create AI-driven tools and automation that enhance efficiency, streamline processes, and improve access to justice in Malaysia. By fostering collaboration between students, legal practitioners, tech experts, and policymakers, the event drives innovation and equips participants with **critical problem-solving and technological skills, preparing them for the future of law and technology.**
16. I encourage all of you to participate actively in today's dialogue session, share your insights, and contribute to shaping the future of legal education in Malaysia.

17. With that, it is my honour to officiate the **Dialogue Session on The Future of Legal Education in Malaysia.**

Thank you, and I wish you a fruitful discussion.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah, wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.