**Politicians Should Not Resort To Dishonest Propaganda, Says Content Forum Executive Director**

**Content Forum: Politicians Should Not Resort To Dishonest Propaganda**

*The Content Forum’s Executive Director, Mediha Mahmood, gives her take on appropriate political conduct this election season.*

**KUALA LUMPUR, OCTOBER 17** - In light of the next election, the Communications Multimedia and Content Forum’s (Content Forum) Executive Director Mediha Mahmood advised Malaysian politicians not to get too wrapped up in their campaigns and resort to dishonest propaganda.

Speaking to Sinar Daily, she stated that making false remarks as part of one's campaign strategy is illegal, and violating the law is inevitable if a propaganda campaign includes attacks, harassment, or defamation.

Malaysia’s defamation law can be read in line with the Election Offences Act 1954 and used against politicians guilty of breaching the statutory requirements.

The statute in question is Section 3(1)(a) Electoral Offences Act 1954, which states that any person who “knowingly makes any false statement on or in connection with any application to be placed on any register of electors” has committed an offence.

“When you misinform or outright lie to your constituents or play around with the statistics to make things look better when it actually isn't, this is equivalent to spreading misinformation and false news,” reiterated Mediha.

Mediha also added that those who are slandered or defamed have the right to press legal action, followed by a short reminder to take political discourse with a grain of salt, emphasising the need to fact-check the assertions of politicians thoroughly.

"However, politicians do occasionally genuinely misspeak or give wrong facts, so if you do call them out, maybe they would appreciate it too," she pointed out.

The public, Mediha said, should feel empowered to call out politicians who violate community guidelines.

“You can report them and block their accounts," she said, concerning politicians who should be held to the same standards as regular users if they use discriminatory, crude or harassing language.

Highlighting the importance of digital literacy among today's youth, they need to understand the technical know-how of the Internet to avoid falling for misinformation.

The Content Forum is an industry forum that advocates for the self-regulation of online content and has just released the revised Content Code 2022.

Hate speech and the prohibition of false content were some aspects revamped in the Content Code 2022, showcasing how committed the Content Forum is to maintaining a safe online space for Malaysians.

The new Content Code 2022 is now available for download [here](https://contentforum.my/contentcode22/).

For more information about the Content Forum, please visit <http://www.contentforum.my>