

Move to abolish or amend 117 laws

SYED DANIAL/THE SUN



(From left) Liew, Department of Environment director-general Datuk Dr Ahmad Kamarulnajib, Ambiga, MyKasih co-founders Puan Sri Jean Ngau and Tan Sri Dr Ngau Boon Keat and UN resident coordinator representative Stefan Priesner at the UN's 73rd anniversary event in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

> 'Only Acts deemed oppressive will be repealed'

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government will abolish, amend or reintroduce a total of 117 laws, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong.

Discussions with stakeholders and lawmakers on some of the changes are in the final stages and only laws that the government deem oppressive would be repealed, said Liew, without elaborating.

However, he said there will be new legislation to protect the position of the Malay rulers.

"We will table a bill to repeal the Sedition Act during the current Parliament session, or in March next year," he told a press conference after launching the 73rd

Anniversary of the United Nations (UN) here yesterday.

At the event, three Malaysians were given awards for contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

Former Bar Council chairman Datuk S. Ambiga Sreenevasan was honoured for her leadership in advocating human rights and good governance, while the National Ozone Unit from the Department of Environment received the award for its commitment in taking proactive measures for environmental sustainability in the country.

MyKasih Foundation was also recognised for its leadership in assisting those in the B40 group.

On the death penalty meted out to alternative treatment practitioner Muhammad Lukman Mohamad for possessing and distributing medical marijuana, Liew said he has the option to file an appeal.

"The judge gave him the death penalty.

Why? The judge has no power because prosecutors did not issue a certificate to ask the judge to sentence him to life imprisonment."

Liew said among conditions for a convicted person to be given a life sentence is assistance rendered to police during investigations.

"In this case, he assisted the prosecution and police and that is the condition for the prosecutor to issue an appeal certificate.

"I don't have the full report on what happened in the investigations because as of right now, the court has not yet issued a written judgment for me to review."

On another case, the government will be appealing to Singapore to halt the execution of Malaysian Prabu N. Pathmanathan, who is expected to be hanged tomorrow at Changi Prison.

Liew said he would send the letter immediately, after discussing the matter with Wisma Putra.