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Opposition in Malaysia and the power of Alternative Media

with

Raja Petra Kamarudin



Raja Petra Kamarudin is a pioneering blog activist and political agitator from Malaysia, currently in self-imposed exile in the UK. The editor and chief writer of the *Malaysia Today* blog - from which he launched his

infamous attack on PM Najib Razak and his wife, Rosmah Mansor - is now chairman of the Malaysian Civil Liberties Movement (MCLM), a new political group that is gearing for the next federal election as the “third force” in Malaysian politics. He has not returned to Malaysia since 2008 because of the threat of arrest.

THURSDAY 17TH MARCH
10:30AM - 12:30PM
(NEW TIME)
AIRPORT LOUNGE
(FIRST FLOOR)

GLENN COLLEGE
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, BUNDOORA

The Airport Lounge is located on the first floor of Glenn College. As you enter through the automatic door on the ground floor of the building facing the moat and walk down the passage, there will be a sign directing you to the Airport Lounge.

MCLM had its beginnings as the Malaysian Civil Liberties Society, whose idea it was to provide a platform for political discourse, so civil Malaysian society could speak as one and help the opposition avoid repeating the disaster of the 2004 election, which gave the ruling Barisan Nasional its biggest electoral victory in history.

Its produced two public documents - the *People's Voice* and the *People's Declaration* - effectively a roadmap to a Malaysia devoid of race-based politics, free of government corruption and cronyism and thriving with economic strength in an environment of good governance, transparency, accountability, equality, egalitarianism and the freedom to practice all religions without fear.

Both documents were adopted by six anti-government parties at a forum of civil rights groups before Malaysia's last federal election, in 2008.

It was at this 12th federal poll that the anti-BN alliance broke for the first time a 51-year-old parliamentary majority that had allowed successive governments to rewrite the Constitution at will.

Despite its high profile and obvious place in Malaysian society, however, MCLS was denied formal registration by Malaysian authorities for six years.

The impasse with Putrajaya led RPK and his group to register MCLS as MCLM in October 2010 in London.

Today, MCLM is a force to be reckoned with on both sides of Malaysian politics.