

**THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT LAW REFORM COMMISSION IN
MALAYSIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN UK, INDIA, NEW
ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA**

By

Ahmad Nabilimran Bin Ahmad Halimi (2010534113)

Ahmad Hazimi Bin Abd Rahman (2010908073)

Dayang Sharlina Binti Datu Basrun (2010333755)

Najwa Arifah Binti Ismail (2010181635)

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Bachelor in Legal Studies
(Hons)

**Universiti Teknologi MARA
Faculty of Law**

June 2013

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

Acknowledgement

This research paper has been carried out with full commitment and contribution by a team which has included Ahmad Nabilimran Bin Ahmad Halimi, Ahmad Hazimi Bin Abd Rahman, Dayang Sharlina Binti Datu Basrun and Najwa Arifah Binti Ismail.

First and foremost, we would like to express our gratitude to Allah subhanahuwa Ta'ala whose help and guidance has sustained us in completing this project paper. We would also like to express our appreciation to our supervisor, Puan Normawati binti Hashim for her guidance, wisdom and encouragement. It was our privilege to have her as our supervisor throughout the semester. On top of that, we would like to thank Dr. Sheela Jayabalan for providing us the basic guidelines on how to carry out this project paper and we are also grateful to our family who has blessed and supported us all the way in bringing this project paper to success.

Not to be forgotten, a big thank you to everyone who directly or indirectly have contributed to the completion of our project paper. It is noteworthy to express our appreciation to Puan Akhzailina Bte Md Akhir for her willingness to be interviewed by us. We appreciate all the assistance given to us throughout the process of completing this project paper.

Lastly, it is our sincere wish that this project paper would be an asset to society and become an aid in understanding Law Reform Commission in Malaysia.

Thank you.

Abstract

The formation of a law reform commission has been an issue and a concern to both the people and the government throughout the world in achieving contemporaneous laws that are relevant to meet the needs of society. In order to deal with this issue, independent Law Commissions have been established in most of the Commonwealth countries with the main objective of having a law that is up to date, fair, just and easily accessed by the people. Unfortunately in Malaysia, there is no independent Law Commission. Malaysia has only two law reform agencies namely the Malaysian Law Reform Committee (MLRC) and Law Reform and Revision Division (LRRD). Nevertheless, these two reform agencies fall under the same ministry department that is the Prime Minister's Department. Subsequently, these committees are not independent from the government. This amounts to limited jurisdiction and powers granted to MLRC and LRRD. The independency of the law reform entities is vital to ensure the development of law reform. Also, it is about time that these committees are converted into an independent law commission that has more powers to conduct its own research and review laws with or without the directions from the Government or the Attorney General.

Thus, this project paper provides a specific analysis on Malaysia's current law reform mechanisms. On top of that, this project paper also provides a comparative research on the salient features of the foreign law reform commissions that are progressive in their operation namely in UK, India, Australia and New Zealand.

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