

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

A LEGAL STUDY ON THE SEDITION ACT
IN MALAYSIA

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MASTER IN ENFORCEMENT LAW

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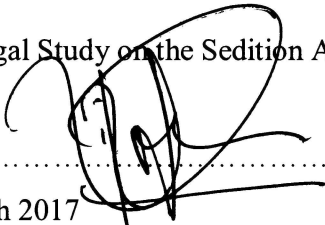
March 2017

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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Abstract

Multi-ethnic and multi-religious make up of Malaysian society requires a deft hand in managing ethnic relation. Malaysia has histories of flares of ethnic relations such as the May 13 incident in 1969. One of the causes attributed to the incident is unruly speeches that incite inter-ethnic hatred. Apart from social and economic policies and action-plans, laws regarding speech could also be used as a tool to prevent such incidents. Sedition law is one of the legislation uses to suppress speech that may incite violence between ethnic groups. The law has been used in number of incidents including political speeches that tend to cause ill feeling and hostility between ethnic groups. The courts have also decided in several cases to punish writers of seditious publication. However, there were also criticisms of abuse of sedition law in suppressing or inhibiting dissent against the government of the day. After 60 years of the Sedition Act 1948, it is timely to consider its usefulness and efficacy in managing ethnic relations. The study seeks to analyse the use and abuse of sedition law by looking at legislation, judgement of the courts and reported incidents regarding sedition law. The paper also will consider whether there is a better legislative scheme to do the job of managing ethnic relation without abuse by politician.

Acknowledgement

This research project would not have been successfully completed without the support and assistance from many people.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my ever supportive and helpful supervisor, Puan Azlena binti Khalid for her continuous guidance and untiring effort in assisting me to complete this dissertation. She has provided great assistance and has motivated me to do better in the completion of this research project

Secondly, I would like to thank all my professor and educators in UiTM Shah Alam that has greatly helped me gaining in completing this research paper.

Special thanks to my classmates for being helpful and kind in sharing information.

Finally, I would also like to thank my family and friends for their endless support and love throughout the course of completing this paper. All of your guidance and love will not be forgotten.

I hope that this paper will be useful to any other researchers who have the intention to pursue their research in this area or any other research which is connected in one way or another with my dissertation.

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