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**Abolishment of Anti-Fake News Act 2018**

*Move to repeal controversial law expected to be brought to Parliament*

| by Ngo Su Ning |

In our earlier March update "[New Restrictions on Free Speech: The Proposed Anti-Fake News Act 2018](#)", we noted that while the Anti-Fake News Act 2018 (the Act) was deemed timely then to restrict the spreading of fake news, its broad definition and vague wording had also given rise to concerns that it could suppress freedom of press, free speech and expression. We expressed our hope that the Act could be debated thoroughly before implementation.

Now, with the new government taking office, the abolishment of the Act remains part of its main agenda. Late last month, the new Communications and Multimedia Minister had announced that the government would move to repeal the Act in the first Dewan Rakyat sitting. Despite the short window, the government has given its word on working towards meeting the timeline (see [Malay Mail Online](#)).

Notwithstanding that, there are various statutory provisions and legislation which have been in place impacting free speech such as the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 and the Penal Code.

Earlier this month, our associate, Ms Ngo Su Ning, was invited to be a panellist in a discussion on "fake news" aired by local Chinese-language radio station, MelodyFM.

For the podcast, please click [here](#).

**Ngo Su Ning** ([snn@lh-ag.com](mailto:snn@lh-ag.com))

If you have any queries, please contact the author or her team partner Mr [Ang Hean Leng](#) ([ahl@lh-ag.com](mailto:ahl@lh-ag.com)).

[MANDARIN translation]

2018年6月25日

## 废除2018年反假新闻法令

*推动废除具争议性反假新闻法令预计将在国会提呈*

| 于 吴素宁 |

在我们3月初出版的“[言论自由的新限制：2018年反假新闻法令](#)”中，其中提到了当时制定2018年反假新闻法令（该法）可说是适时的限制假新闻的散播，但同时其笼统的条文和含糊的定义也引起人民的关注，担心该法将会压制新闻自由，钳制言论自由和抑制舆论。我们当时表示希望该法能够在实施之前进行彻底辩论。

如今，随着新政府上任，废除该法仍是其主要议程之一。上个月底，新任通讯与多媒体部部长宣布预计将在第一届国会开会时提呈商讨废除该法。尽管时间紧迫，政府还是许下了承诺将努力在指定时间内完成这项议程（请看[马来邮报在线\(英语版\)](#)）。

尽管如此，现存的多项法律条款和立法，如1998年通讯及多媒体法令，1984年印刷及出版法令以及刑事法典，仍可影响及约束言论自由。

本地中文电台MelodyFM于本月初邀请了我们律师所的吴素宁律师到《早知Law》单元讨论有关“假新闻”的课题。

欲了解有关访谈，敬请点击[此处](#)。

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