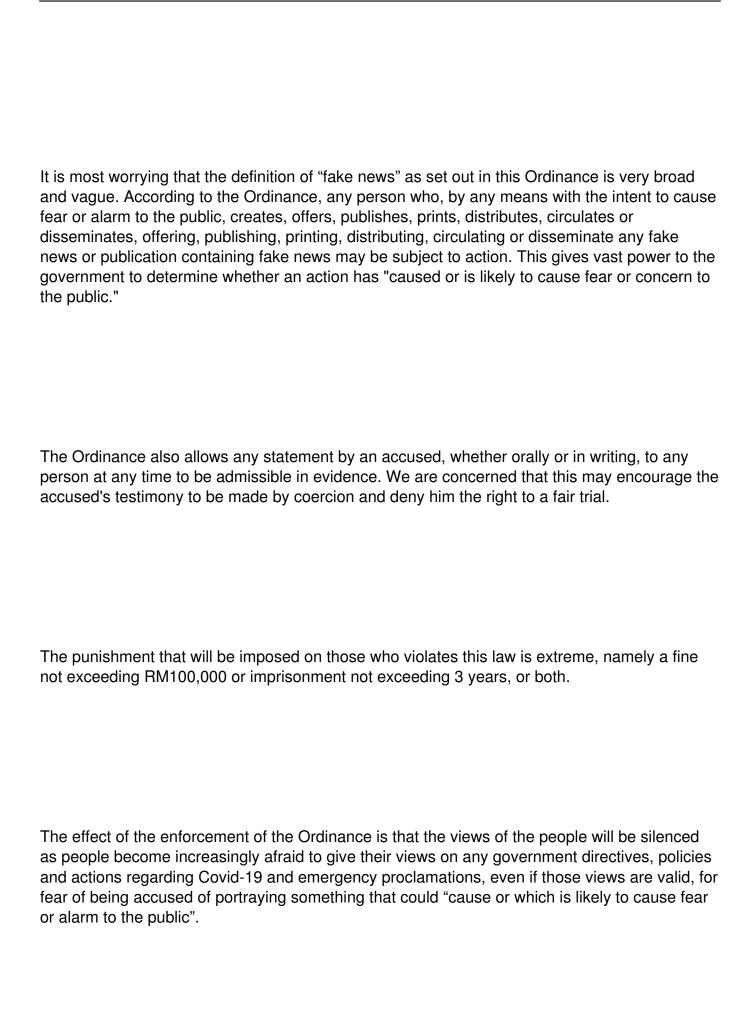
Press Release by BERSIH 2.0
13 March 2021
The Proclamation Of The False News Ordinance Threatens Freedom Of Speech and Democracy
The Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih 2.0) condemns the Perikatan Nasional (PN) government for declaring the highly controversial Emergency (Essential Powers) (No. 2) Ordinance 2021 on fake news without putting it through a parliamentary session for debate and approval.
Such actions are completely undemocratic, non-transparent and non-accountable, especially as the Ordinance will have a massive negative impact on the freedom of speech.
We urge the government to repeal the Emergency (Essential Powers) (No. 2) Ordinance 2021 which is supposed to curb the spread of fake news about Covid-19 and the emergency proclamation.



Bersih 2.0 urges the government to return to democratic process and allow parliament to reconvene immediately as the best platform for elected representatives to give views and debate any legislation proposed by the government prior to implementation, including the most effective mechanisms to address Covid-19 and methods of economic recovery. The governance and future of this country cannot be determined by a handful of political elites alone in the government cabinet.

Released by:

**The Steering Committee of Bersih 2.0**