

KLBC Fireside Chat “Malaysian Politics in the Age of Social Media”

The Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) hosted a Fireside Chat on “**Malaysian Politics in the Age of Social Media**” with YB Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Higher Education on 21 May 2012 at Hilton Kuala Lumpur. The event was sponsored by Privasia Technology Berhad.

KLBC President Dato’ Seri Johan Raslan gave the welcome remarks and introduced the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister then took the podium and proceeded with his talk on the topic.

In his presentation, YB Dato’ Saifuddin said that social media had started to become a feature of new politics after the General Elections in 1999, and much more so after the 2004 elections. Social media has greatly impacted the emergence of ‘new politics’.

Dato’ Saifuddin proposed the theory that there are two major themes in new politics: integrity and governance.

Social media played an important role in the 2008 General Elections, in which Barisan Nasional encountered a major challenge.

The Deputy Minister also shared a theory in political science termed as ‘participatory democracy’ which involved respecting the role of the rakyat and listening to voices of the younger generation.

He said that there was a need for the leaders to come up with progressive thoughts on a comprehensive roadmap for political transformation, and that social media should be valued as a means to raise social consciousness.

Dato’ Seri Johan Raslan then moderated the Question and Answer session in which KLBC members and guests took the opportunity to raise various issues on the topic.

The Fireside Chat was attended by over 30 participants, comprising both KLBC members and invited guests.