

ISA properly used, says

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Dr Mahathir

THE Government has not abused its authority by detaining Immigration and National Registration Department officers under the Internal Security Act, Home Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He said these officers had abused their position by issuing forged passports, identity cards, citizenship papers and birth certificates to foreign nationals and locals who had no such rights.

"Their actions threatened national security because foreigners could move freely and enjoy citizens' benefits through illegal means.

"Therefore, it is not true that the ISA was abused," he said.

He said this in a written reply to Dr V. David (DAP-Puchong) who had asked whether it was an abuse of power since he claimed that the ISA was formulated to deal with communist insurgency.

Dr Mahathir said the ISA was not meant to be used only against communists but also against any other elements who threatened the security of the country.

He also denied a statement by Dr David who said drug pushers were among those detained under the ISA.

"Drug pushers were detained under the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act. 1985," he said.