

aae

Mahathir-ISA

ISA WILL NOT BE REPEALED, SAYS MAHATHIR

bm

94
KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- The Internal Security Act (ISA) will not (rpt) not be repealed but changes will be made to suit the country's present peaceful climate, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the ISA could not be abolished altogether but necessary changes had to be made.

In this situation, there has to be caution because if "we lift up the lid there might be a recurrence" (of undesirable incidents), he told reporters at the Family Day of the Home Ministry at Taman Tasik Perdana here.

"At present, a person will not resort to anything (undesirable) knowing that the ISA is around, but when it is no more he may just do it," said Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister.

He said one of the provisions that might be reviewed is the period a person can be held under the ISA. -- more

HS SN MGN

▼25/05/16-23MST

CNS6603

U GE 25-05 00171 EA446

aae

Mahathir-ISA 2 Kuala Lumpur

"A study will be made by the Home Ministry and then I will present it to the Cabinet," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the decision to review the ISA was made following the peaceful climate in the country without the Communist terrorist threat and racial enmity, and the absence of irresponsible acts.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday the ISA would be reviewed to suit the country's present peaceful climate and that a committee of the National Security Council was studying the provisions of the Act which needed to be reviewed.

On a request by the British government for Malaysia to withdraw its ban on new government contracts for British firms, Dr Mahathir said the government was studying the matter.

"The government has not made any decision yet," he said, adding that it was not known how long the government would take to do so. -- more

HS SN MGN

▼25/05/16-37MST

CNS6611

U GE 25-05 00172 EA447

aae

Mahathir-ISA 3 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said it was true that Britain had offered a long-term trade package and that trade relations were unaffected by the government ban on contracts for British firms.

He said cooperation at government level was normal and the private sector was free to offer contracts to British companies.

The prime minister said the government was happy that Andrew Neil, the editor of The Sunday Times whose published lies about Malaysian leaders led to the ban, was being transferred to a television station in New York, and the transfer was assumed to be a "dismissal".

Dr Mahathir said that though Neil had claimed he would use the station to expose alleged corruption among leaders in Kuala Lumpur, he would not be successful.

"Actually, he has been dismissed. He can unearth more (allegations) but people will not believe him ... they will say it is his personal vendetta," he said. -- more

HS SN MGN

CNS6616

U GE 25-05 00129 EA448

aae

Mahathir-ISA 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, spent about two hours with staff of the ministry and watched telematch games and viewed an exhibition.

Dr Mahathir also took part in a VJP golf competition for special guests.

The Family Day, organised jointly by the ministry's Puspanita branch and the ministry's Welfare and Sports Club, was launched by the ministry's secretary-general, Datuk Abdul Rahim Haji Din.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob, the Parliamentary Secretary to the ministry, Encik Ong Ka Ting, and the Director-General of Prisons, Datuk Zaman Khan Rahim Khan, also attended the family day. --

Bername

HS SN MGN