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Gerakan-ISA

THE ISA NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED AND NOT ABOLISHED, SAYS GERAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The Internal Security Act (ISA) should not be abolished but a review should be conducted on its suitability to the prevailing security situation in the country, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

He said that like other existing Acts including the Land Acquisition Act, the provisions of the ISA especially on detention of individuals and the circumstances which allow the Act to be enforced on individuals, should be reviewed.

Speaking to reporters at the Gerakan's Deepavali "open house" here, he said that the ISA however needs to be retained in the interest of the nation's security and the people's well-being.

"I will indicate the Gerakan's stand to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding the ISA and will urge him to never ever think of abolishing the ISA," he said.

Last Wednesday, Dr Mahathir stated that he had at one time proposed that the ISA be abolished but the police felt that the law was still essential to maintain national security.

Lim said that Malaysians should realise the significance of the Act in ensuring peace and harmony in the country.

"It is through the ISA that Malaysia managed to curb the subversive activities of the Communist Party of Malaya and save the country from destruction following the racial riots in 1969," he said.

As such, he said, the younger generation should appreciate the role of the ISA.

He said that the younger generation had never experienced bloodshed and therefore did not realise the effectuive of the ISA and had no qualms about taking part in large-scale street demonstrations and threatening peace and security.

Lim said that if they have any grievances, they should express them through the proper channels.

By holding demonstrations, they could be used by certain quarters out to create racial tension and causing chaos, he said.

On the campaign seeking to have the ISA abolished launched by Gerak, Lim said that the political parties and non-governmental organisations in the movement were opportunists with their own agenda and were not doing it in the interest of the people.

-- BERNAMA

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