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Isa-Kassim

ISA IS RELEVANT AS MALAYSIA IS STILL NOT SAFE FROM EXTERNAL THREATS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- A former detainee under the Internal Security Act (ISA), Dr Kassim Ahmad, said today that the ISA was still relevant and crucial in protecting the country from internal and external threats and ensuring continued economic growth and preserving harmony among the various races.

He said Malaysia was still not safe from external threats and, in fact, there were some Malaysians who were not aware that they were being used as a tool by outsiders to cripple the country.

"We can clearly see the British/American empire planning various plots to topple Dr Mahathir (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and the government under his leadership.

"This is an obvious danger faced by our country and the government can take measures to prevent individuals or groups who are acting in tandem with the interests of the neo-colonialists," he said in an interview which was telecast on TV1 in "Berita Perdana" produced by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) tonight.

Kassim said although the ISA was drafted to overcome threats and subversive elements, it was still relevant in view of the different scenario faced by the country now.

On the claim that the ISA was contrary to the international declaration on human rights by the United Nations, he said the declaration actually allowed restrictions imposed to prevent more serious problems.

"For example, in the declaration, Article 29 (2) states that in the execution of these rights and freedom, everyone must be subjected to restrictions determined by the law," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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