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Rais-Act

REGISTRATION OF CRIMINAL ACT TO BE AMENDED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- The government is mulling over an amendment to the Registration of Criminal Act to include a more comprehensive DNA profile of criminals and those suspected of being criminals.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said widening the scope of the DNA profile could assist investigation by police and other enforcement agencies which now depended only on finger prints and photographs.

"I am convinced that Malaysia needs this facility as soon as possible in view of the spate of crimes which occurred recently. This would cajole us into amending this Act as soon as possible," he told reporters after visiting the Judicial and Legal Training Institute (ILKAP) here, today.

He said the profile of DNAs belonging to criminals and those suspected of committing offences would be done by extracting their blood, hair, skin fibre and others.

On the proposed amendments to the Federal Constitution to ensure that there was no gender discrimination in the country, he said the amendments would include the person's sex, besides religion, ethnic group and marital status in Article 8 (2) of the Constitution.

The item on sex had been included in all international instruments including political rights which had been recommended by the United Nations, he said.

He said the amendments to the Constitution would put Malaysia in the same category of countries in the UN which recognised the rights of both sexes in the granting of any award or privilege.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said the amendments to the Constitution was to ensure that women had the same rights as men in terms of the country's policies and laws.

On ILKAP, Rais said the institute would move to a new building in Section 15, Bandar Baru Bangi in October.

He said ILKAP, which was set up in 1993, had put up an excellent record in training almost 10,000 legal officers, judges and prosecuting officers.

-- BERNAMA

MHI NZ AO