

Legal framework for govt-to-govt co-operation

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By **NICK LEONG**

PUTRAJAYA: A proposed law will allow Malaysia to work with other governments to combat syndicated crimes worldwide.

Tentatively called the Mutual Co-operation in Matters Pertaining to Crime Act, Datuk Seri Dr Kais Yatim said the Bill, to be tabled at the Dewan Rakyat soon, would be particularly useful in combating drug trafficking.

It would also be relevant to the ongoing investigations into allegations of mismanagement in Perwaja, the national steel

company, said the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Dr Rais said the Bill would provide the legal framework for the Government to co-operate with other governments around the world to fight crime.

Together with the recently enacted Anti-Money Laundering Act the proposed law demonstrates the country's commitment to playing its role in tackling trans-border crimes, he said:

"With this Act, we will be co-operating with other countries in the event that the

Attorney-General requires evidence to be garnered from overseas.

"Malaysia will co-operate with the criminal divisions of foreign governments should our help be required," he told reporters after a meeting with Dutch ambassador Jonkheer John von Muhlen at his office yesterday.

On its use to probe allegations against Perwaja, Dr Rais said: "Yes, we can use it, once it becomes law, to obtain evidence from Switzerland relevant to the case."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recent-

Iv called for greater transparency by banks to help the Government in tracking "dirty money."