

25/09/2002

Bar Council: Consider our views before amending ISA

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Bar Council today urged Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim to consider the view of the legal profession pertaining to the Internal Security Act before deciding whether to amend it.

In a statement today, Bar Council chairman Mah Weng Kwai commended Rais's statement made last week that a thorough study needed to be carried out on the ISA before the Government could decide whether to include the views by the Malaysian Human Rights Commission in any amendments to be made later.

Mah said that the view of the legal profession in a memorandum presented to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March 1999 detailing the views and recommendations of the council on the ISA would be pertinent in any study of the legislation.

He said the Bar Council had been consistent in its call to repeal the ISA and all other legislation that allowed for preventive detention without trial, adding that a review of preventive laws such as the ISA had been long overdue.

On Sept 9, Suhakam chairman Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman said the Government should review restrictive laws such as the ISA and pass new ones as times had changed, citing changing circumstances.