

**Najib tells police: Do not compromise on evidence**  
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Evidence gathered for a case to be prosecuted must not be compromised and such evidence must be able to stand up in court, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak told the police force today.

"There is no easy solution... we can't arrest just anyone. We need to have enough evidence... evidence collection must not be compromised," Najib said in his keynote speech at an international conference.

"In a more educated, enlightened society that demands high standards... the police must rise up to new expectations... and strive to earn the people's trust in the police force," he added.

In view of the government's move to abolish the Internal Security Act, which allows for arbitrary detention without trial, Najib said the police force had to hone its skills to rise to the new challenges ahead.

The ISA was introduced in the 1960s to tackle the communist insurgency, giving the police wide-ranging powers to detain suspects indefinitely.

Najib, on the eve of Malaysia Day last year, said the ISA and similar laws such as the Emergency Ordinance (EO) would be abolished to make "Malaysia a modern, progressive democracy".

Media laws such as the annual licences now required for newspapers would also be repealed, the prime minister added, and a newspaper can be published indefinitely unless its licence is revoked.

When the Bill to abolish the EO was tabled in Parliament last December, Najib also announced that two new laws would be enacted in place of the ISA.

'Reduce crime rate to gain people's trust'

He is expected to table the motion to abolish ISA when the parliamentary sitting for this year begins on March 12.

Najib also expressed his gratitude to the police and commended the force for having succeeded in reducing the crime rate by up to 40 percent last year, citing statistics from the National Key Results Areas (NKRA) initiative.

"This is the beginning... we have to keep doing it relentlessly to gain the trust of the people," he added in his speech at the International Conference of Principled Policing: Rule of Law, Public Order and Sustainable Development, at Bandar Sunway in Subang Jaya, Selangor.

"The public might be sceptical, that they don't feel safe, but the police shouldn't be demoralised."

The police must therefore continue their "remarkable" work, which will in turn increase public confidence in the force.

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