

PKR all set to fight new preventive law

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PKR will strongly oppose any new version of an Emergency Ordinance (EO) because the BN has previously used such legislation to stifle political dissent rather than to fight crime.

Referring to reports of a new preventive law to tackle crime, PKR vice-president N Surendran said today that such a law would pose "grave danger to the civil and political rights of all Malaysians".

The law is reportedly being drafted by a committee headed by Minister Idris Jala, and is due to be tabled in Parliament in September.

NONE "We will fight such laws at every stage of its tabling in the Dewan Rakyat, we will never surrender the fundamental rights of the rakyat," Surendran said in a statement.

"We call upon the prime minister to drop the intention of tabling such laws, and instead focus upon creating a better-trained and more efficient police force."

Surendran noted that, on one occasion in July 2011, the EO had been "misused" to arrest six PSM activists including a member of parliament.

"The police must also be freed from unnecessary political tasks on behalf of the BN, such as spying on and prosecuting opposition and civil society leaders and activists," he said.

"Using the police for these unconstitutional political tasks is a serious waste of resources and demoralises the police force."

'Bring in IPCMC'

The DAP's Bukit Bendera MP Zairil Khir Johari refreshed calls for the formation of an Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCC).

"The only one way to fend off the negative perception is to implement the recommendations of the royal commission (of inquiry into police operations in 2005)," he said in a separate statement.

He said there have been 12 cases of death in police custody this year alone, 13

cases of gun violence have been recorded over the past four months.

azlanThe series of violent crimes prompted premier Najib Abdul Razak to moot an EO-type law, in modified form, to enable the police to cope with such incidents.

The EO, which allowed the police to detain a suspect for two months without trial, was originally designed to enforce order after the May 13,1969 riots.

It was abolished in 2011 and over 2,000 detainees were freed last year.

However, human rights activists and lawyers have registered their objections to a return to the EO era.

At a Proham forum, for example, it was argued that existing laws, like the amended Prevention of Crime Act 1959, provide sufficient powers for the police to deal with serious crime.

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