

Abolishing ISA And EO Is What We Have Been Clamouring For
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Gerakan welcomes and praises Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's announcement on the repeal of the Internal Security Act 1960 and revocation of three (3) Emergency Proclamations.

This will go a long way in improving Malaysia's human rights record and image, and further solidify our credentials when it comes to human liberty. It also showcases the receptiveness of the government in making the changes the rakyat have long sought.

Gerakan has consistently called for the replacement of ISA with a Prevention of Terrorism Act in line with the British, American and Australian models. We welcome Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein's announcement that the Home Ministry is looking at these examples as they balance public safety and security with individual liberty.

The new law must confine its area of operation in combating acts of violence and terrors. However a cautionary note at this point must be raised as all three legislations do not allow indefinite detention, any new act must do dispense with such a requirement unless it can be proven to be absolutely necessary.

The brave and liberal decision made by Prime Minister is a testimony of Barisan Nasional's commitment to create more space of democracy for the people and in line with the transformation program initiated by Prime Minister 2 years ago. The doing away with the printing permit is another achievement of BN for protection of freedom of speech but the press must be accountable and responsible for its reporting to prevent abuses as happened in News International scandal in London.

Let us remember that the freedom of speech does not entail the freedom to propagate untruths and slander others.

CHANG KO YOUN is Gerakan Deputy President and Chairman of the Legal and Human Rights Bureau

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