

Do Not Doubt Govt's Move To Abolish ISA, Says Muhyiddin
MalaysianMirror.com
September 17,2011

NIBONG TEBAL -- Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said today no one should doubt the government's intention to do away with the Internal Security Act.

He said the announcement to that effect two days ago by Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak could have come as a surprise to many, including the opposition parties.

Muhyiddin described the move by Najib as a bold one and said the decision to repeal the ISA was not done in haste but after much study and contemplation.

"This reflects the courage of the prime minister. It was not a response to the demands of many although the matter had been raised over a long time. It should be welcomed by the people regardless of race and creed," he told reporters after attending a "Merdeka Raya" reception at the Dewan Gerakan Masyarakat Perda in Sungai Acheh, here.

Muhyiddin was responding to the comments by leaders of several opposition parties who welcomed the proposed abolition of the ISA but said they did not think it would be implemented.

In his special Malaysia Day message two days ago, Najib had announced among other things that the ISA would be repealed and two new laws would be enacted to protect the peace, harmony and security of the country.

Muhyiddin said the announcement was not a mere "sweetener" for the people because the prime minister was mindful of the situation in the country, the aspirations of the people and current developments.

"This is not a game. The announcement (by the prime minister) was not only for Malaysians but the whole world," he said, adding that it was in the best interests of the country and people, not the government or ruling party.

"The government decides in the interests of the people. It was a pledge made by the prime minister when he took office (in 2009), a promise to initiate transformation.

"We have initiated economic transformation and government transformation and now we are on to political transformation which is linked to the political situation, national security, human rights and freedom of speech. This means we have progressed to a level of maturity," he said.

(Bernama)