

Abolishing ISA Is BN's Decision And Not Due To Struggle Of Others, Says PM
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SHAH ALAM -- Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak stressed that the decision to abolish the Internal Security Act (ISA) was a decision made by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government and not due of the struggle of others.

As such, he said, other parties should not claim credit that his announcement to abolish the ISA was due their championing for it.

"The decision was made because the BN government is one which listen's to the voice of the people, who wish for such a change (abolishment of the ISA) and not because others are championing for an end to the ISA," he said when addressing a gathering of BN supporters at Dewan Agong Tuanku Canselor, Universiti Teknologi MARA here yesterday.

In his Malaysia Day message on Thursday, Najib had announced that the ISA would be abolished and replaced with two new laws to specifically address terrorism and threats to national security.

Najib also explained that the decision to end the ISA was in line with his wish to review the legislation when taking over as prime minister two years ago.

He said the change would put Malaysia on a solid track towards becoming a more progressive democracy.

"We wish to see a balance between openness and individual rights while at the same time preserving peace and harmony," he said, adding that the BN government would develop Malaysia to a be more progressive, modern and open nation which would reach out to help those who need it in an inclusive manner.

"We will also build a nation that looks after both the interests of the public and the individual because Malaysian society now is a knowledge society which demands renewal to assure the people's future as well as civil liberties," he said.

In SEREMBAN, Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the opposition must be running out of ideas for claiming that the announcement to abolish the ISA was stolen from its 'Orange Book' published in December 2010.

In the Orang Book, the opposition, made of PAS, DAP and PKR, had pledged that ending the ISA would be one of the things it would do within 100 days if it came into power after the next general election.

Hishammuddin said the study to abolish ISA was announced by Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak in 2009 which was one year earlier than the pledges made in the opposition Orange Book.

"The Prime Minister announced the ISA study two years ago and it has since been done comprehensively," he told reporters after attending a briefing session for BN supporters here.

On Friday, Petaling Jaya North member of Parliment from DAP, Tony Pua in his interview with an electronic media organisation had claimed that the Prime Minister took the idea of abolishing ISA from the opposition's Orange Book.

(Bernama)