

New Security Bills Reasonable & Fair
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I believe that once the newly tabled Security Offences (Special Measures) Bill 2012 is passed, it will pave the way for a new brand of democracy, freedom and transparency which is what the rakyat have been looking forward to which will also eliminate years of accumulated misgivings.

The new Bill gives the courts more powers, and all activities which are considered a threat to national security will be given a chance for trial. This in itself is already more reasonable and fair compared to the Internal Security Act 1960 which allows for detention without trial.

I am also fully supportive of the clause in the new Bill which allows the police to detain without warrant a person suspected of being involved in security offences for a 28-day period, instead of the previous 60 days under the ISA. This is considered reasonable because national security should not be allowed to be threatened.

Those who fall under this clause are terrorists and religious extremists, including those responsible for the recent bombings in Thailand which had claimed many lives.

Therefore, the Royal Malaysian Police should be accorded a certain amount of power and time to deal with possible scenarios which may affect and threaten our country's national security.

But most importantly, this new Bill does not allow the police to detain or arrest anyone simply because of political affiliations, and this is true sign of liberalisation and democracy.

This new Bill was proposed by the Barisan Nasional government under the leadership of Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, who has the political courage to take this first bold step, as the government had pledged to have discussion with people of different political backgrounds.

Under the Prime Minister, the government has proven that it is capable of practising what it preaches, which is more than what Pakatan Rakyat can claim!

The promise to repeal the ISA was made by the Prime Minister last year on Malaysia Day, and the tabling of the new Security Offences (Special Measures) Bill 2012 proves that the BN government is capable and efficient in keeping its promise.

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