

ISA unlikely to be reviewed

BY LISA GOH

KUALA LUMPUR: There is little possibility of the Internal Security Act (ISA) being reviewed under the present circumstances, a law conference was told.

Even though some members of the floor felt that the ISA could no longer be justified, many, including Court of Appeal judge Datuk Gopal Sri Ram, said a review was not possible unless those who threatened the country's security

stopped their threats.

"For example, if you know a man is going to bomb your apartment, do you want us to detain him before or after he blows your place up?" asked Justice Sri Ram who took quotes from Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

He also gave the example of traffic lights, saying that no one liked them but they were needed to keep the people safe.

"Motorcyclists don't obey them but they are a necessary

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evil," he said at the 13th Malaysian Law Conference.

Human Rights Society of Malaysia deputy president Malik Imtiaz Sarwar said the issue of terrorism did not have much effect on Malaysia as "we have always had a war on terror since the Act was introduced."

He said that the ISA was highly criticised by human rights groups but after the Sept 11 attacks, it became a model law for the US Patriot Act and the Anti-Terrorist Act in Britain.