

# 'No amending' of National Heritage Act

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The National Heritage Act provides adequate protection for heritage buildings and will not be amended.

Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, referring to the recent controversy over the demolition of the historic Bok House in Jalan Ampang, said: "We know that many heritage lovers were irked by the demolition of the Bok House, but we will not amend the National Heritage Act as its provisions are sufficient."

Speaking to reporters at the Akademi Seni Budaya Dan Warisan Kebangsaan convocation yesterday, Rais said Bok House, which for many years functioned as the site of the popular Le Coq Dor restaurant, was "structurally not sound and the cost of rehabilitation would have been high".

Rais also said that Bok House did not have any historical significance "as it was only a house of a well-to-do man".

Bok House was built by tycoon Chua Cheng Bok in 1929. It is said that the house was built to impress the father of a young woman that Chua wanted to marry.

Rais said the criteria needed for a building to be gazetted as a heritage site was that it had esthetic value, historical significance and it must be of public interest as conservation costs would incur taxpayers' money.

Rais said while Bok House may be nice to look at, it simply did not have historical significance as compared with the Sultan Abdul Samad Building or the Majestic Hotel.