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Be mature, don't jeopardise national security: Dr M

TANJUNG MALIM: Former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed hope yesterday that Malaysians are mature and will not do anything that can jeopardise national security after the Internal Security Act (ISA) has been repealed.

Concerned that certain quarters might take advantage of the abolition of the ISA, Mahathir hoped the people would not gamble away the future of the country by taking the issue of national security for granted.

"I hope Malaysians are mature enough to understand that when there is no such security law (ISA) around, they must exercise self-control. You must discipline yourselves not to undermine the

country's security," he said.

On the new laws to replace the ISA, Mahathir hoped they could overcome weaknesses of the ISA to ensure no abuses.

"The shortcoming of the ISA is that there is no court trial and the decision depends on the discretion of those in authority, hence there could be misuse of power.

"We can have trials in court but then again, some detainees can get away if they have very good lawyers to defend them," he said.

On the willingness of the United States to assist Malaysia to draw up new laws to replace the ISA, Mahathir said the government could listen to their views but at the same time, it should exercise caution. - Bernama