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Newspaper	The Sun
Date	14/2/2012

02 | NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS
theSun ON TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 14, 2012

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Najib: New laws, more demands

> Police force must rise to the challenge

BY HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The abolition of several security laws and the creation of new ones to replace them will demand the police work harder and rise up to the challenges ahead.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said yesterday in a more educated and enlightened society that demands high standards, the

police must match them and strive to earn the trust of the people.

He said that the new laws replacing the "much-maligned ISA (Internal Security Act) which is consigned to the history books" will demand more burden of proof from the men in blue.

"We cannot be in the state of mind of just arresting anyone but must ask if the evidence can stand in the court of law.

"This means we have to work harder, have higher level of professionalism and the investigations as well as the collection of evidence must not be

The Sun - 14/2/2012

compromised," he said when delivering his keynote address at the International Conference on Principled Policing: Rule of Law, Public Order and Sustainable Development organised by Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

Najib had announced the repeal of the ISA and other restrictive laws in his Malaysia Day address last September. He said two new replacement laws will be drafted and tabled in this year's March parliamentary sitting.

In October last year, the repeal of Restricted Residence Act (1933) and

the Banishment Act (1959) were tabled and approved in Parliament.

Najib said the police force will face many challenges but new strategies, change of mindset, very strong sets of ethical balance, strict enforcement, and strong and effective leadership at all levels are needed enhance the safety of the communities.

He also commended the police force for having reduced the crime rate by 40% last year, citing statistics from the National Key Results Area initiative.

Earlier in an address to staff of the Prime Minister's Department at

Dataran Perdana in Putrajaya, Najib said the government will continue to explore new ideas and approaches to identify effective ways to solve problems and ensure efficient service to the people.

He said the government's administration was always in search of ways to achieve a positive outcome through an effective and efficient management within a minimum allocation, reports Bernama.

"What we aspire through the support of our partners in the administration is to be focused and committed to provide unwavering service to the people."