

**Dewan Negara Abolishes Two Acts
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Negara Thursday unanimously voted to abolish the Restricted Residence Act 1933 and the Banishment Act 1959.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong said the annulment of the Restricted Residence Act 1933 was based on the principles of democracy and justice as well as information and communication technology development advancement and urbanisation.

"After this act is repealed, there are existing laws that can be adequately used to address non-violence crimes," he said when winding up debate on two bills which lead to the abolition of the two acts.

The Restricted Residence Bill (Abolition) 2011, which led to the annulment of the Restricted Residence Act 1933 (Act 377), and the Banishment Bill (Abolition) 2011, which led to the removal of the Banishment Act 1959, were approved without dissent.

Liew said as the Banishment Act 1959 had not been enforced for the last 34 years, its abolition was appropriate as it should be seen to overlap the Immigration Act 1959/63 which provided detention and deportation of foreign nationals like the Banishment Act.

"Hence, the abolition of the Banishment Act 1959 is appropriate as it is no longer relevant as well as it would help streamline the country's legal system," he said, adding that despite the Act being abolished, the government would ensure security, peace and harmony were maintained.

He said there were other legal mechanisms capable of meeting the desired protection provided under the act as enshrined in the Federal Constitution and adhered to international norms while ensuring the people well-being and the country's prosperity.

On Sept 15, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the abolition of the Restricted Residence Act 1933 and the Banishment Act 1959.

Apart from abolishing the two acts, he also announced a move to repeal three emergency proclamations and the Internal Security 1960 (ISA) as well as to carry out a comprehensive review of the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 and Section 27 of the Police Act 1967.

The house will sit again on Monday.

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