

**PM: Emergency rule end proves reforms pledge**  
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**By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 24 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak today held up his lifting of three Emergency proclamations as testimony of the sincerity in the government's promise to reform.

The prime minister earlier tabled a motion in Parliament to end three emergency proclamations, which he had pledged during his Malaysia Day speech two months ago.

The three declarations lifted are the 1966 Emergency proclamation in Sarawak; the May 13, 1969 Emergency proclamation; and the 1977 Kelantan Emergency proclamation.

"This shows we are in a functioning democracy. This is a blessing in the government's continued efforts to find new ways to move forward," Najib told Parliament.

The PM said what his administration did today was a "brave step", similar to those taken by the previous federal governments to ensure peace and stability in the country.

He said the Barisan Nasional (BN) government has always delivered their promises, stressing that "this government is a tested and tried brand."

The 1966 Sarawak Emergency proclamation was declared by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong then to solve political disputes in the state.

The 1969 national Emergency proclamation was declared on May 15 of that year following the infamous May 13 racial riots.

The 1977 Kelantan Emergency proclamation was issued on November 8 of that year to solve political discord in the state.

Today, the prime minister said the three proclamations were "no longer necessary" as Malaysia was not in any state of emergency.

"This is the second phase of the government's Political Transformation Plan (PTP), after the first phase was announced on September 15... that is the doing away of the Restricted Residences Act and Banishment Act," he said.

Najib's remarks today come following harsh criticisms by opposition leaders and civil rights groups over his plans to institute changes to ostensibly allow for more public freedom.

The government earlier this week tabled a law regulating public gatherings.

Shortly after it was unveiled, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) leaders said the new bill was "worse" than previous laws on public assembly, and that it simply meant "people could not gather anywhere in Malaysia."

PR described the Peaceful Assembly Bill as repressive and restrictive of civil freedom,

claiming it accords the police even more power to arrest individuals.

But BN parliamentarians have defended the new laws regulating public assembly, saying that it showed progress and guaranteed more freedom compared to previous legislation.

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