

## **Anwar says won't claim ISA compensation**

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**By Debra Chong**

PETALING JAYA, Sept 17 — Twice detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA), Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he won't be among those pushing for government compensation.

A political firebrand in his younger days, the 64-year-old opposition leader said he had no regrets being held under the controversial security that allows for detention without trial.

"For me, it's not personal," Anwar (picture) replied when asked if he would be joining the growing number of civil society advocates demanding the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) government compensate detainees for the loss of their liberty to show it was sincere in carrying out reforms.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had announced this week he would repeal the ISA and revise other outdated security laws to demonstrate a more open society.

However, several civil society organisations, including Gerakan Mansuh ISA (GMI), want Putrajaya to pay reparations to the detainees and/or their families for the distress inflicted on them over the years.

"All victims of ISA should be paid gratuity equivalent to the torture and suffering that was experienced by the detainees and their family members," GMI chairman Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh said yesterday.

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