

PAS: Free or prosecute all ISA detainees to prove sincerity
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By Melissa Chi

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 — PAS said all Internal Security Act (ISA) detainees should be released or tried in court if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is sincere following his bold announcement to abolish the security law that allows for detention without trial.

Party information chief Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said the move was important to help Najib regain the confidence and trust of the people and to show that the announcement was not just “talk” like his economic reforms.

Tuan Ibrahim wants the government to apologise to the ISA detainees. — File pic
“Even if they can’t be released immediately, PAS urge that the detainees be tried in court immediately so they can defend themselves if the government claims that they have proof that they are terrorists,” he said in a statement today.

“Najib must choose between the two options — whether they must be released or tried. In addition, PAS also demands that the government apologise to the ISA detainees following PM’s admittance that there are flaws in the draconian law, if he is truly sincere.

“Don’t be quick to push away the responsibility to apologise to the former leaders because they had drafted this cruel law. Instead, Najib should represent the past leaders to apologise to every ISA detainee because they are from the same group, which is Barisan Nasional,” Tuan Ibrahim said.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein had said that the ISA detainees will remain in custody until two new laws to replace the ISA come into effect.

“The two laws will only be tabled next year and this will add to the suffering of the ISA detainees’ families who had high hopes since Najib’s announcement on Thursday,” Tuan Ibrahim said.

Najib announced on Thursday night the repeal of the ISA and the three Emergency Declarations when both the Dewan Negara and Dewan Rakyat have their next sitting.

The prime minister said that new laws will be enacted to protect the peace, harmony and security of the country.

He also announced that the government will do away with annual printing and publishing permits with permits that can be cancelled if regulations are flouted.

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