

**Correct Decision To Abolish ISA, Says Huazong
Bernama
September 16, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- The Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia or popularly known as Huazong describes the decision by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to repeal the Internal Security Act (ISA) as a correct decision that complies with the current development in the country and the world.

Its president, Tan Sri Pheng Yin Huah said the decision to repeal ISA, together with the lifting of three proclamations of emergency and the review of the Printing Presses and Publications Act reflected the determination of the Prime Minister through his Political Transformation Plan (PTP).

"This is very much People First, Performance Now. It reflects the Prime Minister's determination to make bold changes and reforms, particularly through various transformation plans," he told Bernama here Friday.

He hoped the government would continue with such transformation plan to include other acts such as the Official Secrets Act, Sedition Act, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and a review of the Police Act as a whole, not only amending a section of the Police Act 1967.

"Apart from that, we also hope that the transformation would also continue with the review of the Universities and University Colleges Act (1971), so that the university students have greater freedom of political participation," he added.

Pheng said Huazong, as the main body for more than 3,000 Chinese associations in the country, also hoped that the government would hold discussions with the various stakeholders before enacting the Anti-terrorist Act to replace ISA.

"Huazong felt it would be good if the Government listens to the view of the people before they enact this law to replace ISA. By doing so, the public would have the opportunity to forward its input," he said.

Meanwhile, the Sabah Journalists Association (SJA) which was vocal in fighting for press freedom, welcomes the decision of the government to review the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984.

Its president, Datuk Joniston Bangkuai said the decision was timely and should be supported by the people especially media practitioners.

"This shows the system of democracy especially the freedom of the press is protected and flourishing. The community today is more mature in evaluating news published by the media.

"As an example, in Sabah, even though news of the government and opposition were equally featured in the front pages...the people are still siding the government in the last general election...meaning the people are mature," he said.

--BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=613970>