

**ISA Continues To Be Relevant And Crucial, Says MHA
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SINGAPORE, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) says the Internal Security Act (ISA) continues to be relevant and crucial as a measure of last resort for the preservation of its national security.

In a statement, MHA said the ISA in Singapore had only been used to deal with threats of subversion, racial and religious extremism (such as inciting racial or religious hatred, strife and violence), espionage and terrorism.

It said the government noted the announcement by Malaysia that it would be replacing its Internal Security Act (ISA) with new legislation aimed at preventing "subversive action, organised violence and criminal acts".

The ISA in Singapore and Malaysia might have had the same roots from the time when both were British colonies, but the two countries and their respective societies had evolved differently over time.

Accordingly, it said the ISA in Singapore had evolved and was now different from that in Malaysia.

According to the MHA, the Singapore government had used the ISA sparingly.

The ISA had only been used against individuals who had acted in a manner prejudicial to the security of Singapore or to the maintenance of public order or essential services therein.

It said no person had ever been detained only for their political beliefs.

The ISA in Singapore has only been used to deal with threats of subversion, racial and religious extremism (such as inciting racial or religious hatred, strife and violence), espionage and terrorism.

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