

MCA Youth wants more law reforms after ISA repeal
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 — MCA Youth wants more reforms made after the Internal Security Act (ISA) is repealed, citing a need to abolish laws concerning media and student participation in politics.

Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong, who is the party's Youth chief, said that it was time for the government to abolish the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (PPPA) and review the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA).

"Abolishing the PPPA will give local media more democratic space... MCA Youth also calls on the honourable prime minister to review the UUCA in order to give more freedom of assembly to students from colleges and universities," said Wee during his address at the MCA Youth annual general assembly today.

Wee said current restrictions faced by students in universities and colleges are "undemocratic".

"Amend the UUCA. I do not see any problem to amending it. Students should not be denied the right to vote," he told reporters later.

PM Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday the ISA will be repealed in March after two replacement laws are drafted.

Najib said that his promised reform timetable would instead begin with the repeal of the Banishment and Restricted Residence Act when Parliament reconvenes next week.

He also said that amendments to the Police Act to allow for freedom of assembly other than street protests will likely be tabled in November.

Najib announced a raft of reforms including the lifting of three states of emergencies in his Malaysia Day address, and vowed to give Malaysians greater liberties.

He had promised on Tuesday that his Cabinet would meet this week to decide on the timing of reforms with the first round to begin in the upcoming Dewan Rakyat sitting.

Najib came to power in April 2009 with the promise of reviewing the ISA but decided on doing away with the security law that critics say has been abused by Barisan Nasional (BN) for political purposes.

Along with a parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms, the repeal of the ISA appear to be key concessions by Najib in a drastic move to win back middle Malaysia before a general election expected within the year.

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