

**Najib gets reforms rolling in Parliament**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**October 03, 2011**  
**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak tabled in Parliament today the repeal of the Restricted Residence Act and the Banishment Act, as announced in his Malaysia Day address — part of his reform package to give the public more freedom.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz also tabled a motion to form Najib's promised parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms.

The committee will be made up of five Barisan Nasional MPs, three Pakatan Rakyat MPs and one independent representative.

He said that the panel was important as "a candidate can win even by a single vote."

"This is to ensure there are no more accusations against the Election Commission," the Padang Rengas MP said of the committee that will sit for six months.

However, the repeals of the Internal Security Act and three emergencies were not mentioned in Dewan Rakyat today.

Najib had said last Friday that the ISA will only be scrapped in March as the government had to draft two new laws to replace it.

Opposition lawmakers have called the delay in repealing the law it says Barisan Nasional (BN) abuses to silence dissent a "cop out" as the prime minister is likely to call snap polls soon after Budget 2012 is passed.

Najib has also said that amendments to the Police Act to allow for freedom of assembly other than street protests will likely be tabled in next month.

These reforms appear to be key concessions by Najib to win back middle Malaysia before snap polls expected early next year.

His administration had come under heavy fire for its clampdown on the July 9 Bersih rally for free and fair elections.

Police had fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse tens of thousands of demonstrators in chaotic scenes which resulted in nearly 1,700 arrested, scores injured and the death of an ex-soldier.

The Malaysian Insider  
Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider  
Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/najib-gets-reforms-rolling-in-parliament/>