

ISA arrests proof PM's reform pledge a lie, says Nurul Izzah
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 — PKR Vice-President Nurul Izzah Anwar said today Datuk Seri Najib Razak had lied about promised reforms after the recent arrest of 13 suspected Islamist militants under the controversial Internal Security Act (ISA).

"It just became a mere public relations exercise on the part of the prime minister. You lied to the Malaysian people," she said, after the launch of the Yayasan Aman Contribution Programme at her Lembah Pantai office here.

She pointed out that Najib had not instructed the Attorney-General to prepare a draft bill to revoke emergency declarations or alternative laws to replace the ISA.

"When they keep [pointing at] the Patriot Act in America, as well as other acts in the UK as well as Australia, I would like to ... remind all Malaysians that the Patriot Act doesn't allow the (US) government to arrest [its] citizens, and the detention period is for seven days only.

"ISA (detention) lasts for 60 days and it can [be renewed] indefinitely, [for] two years at one particular time," she said, adding that in Australia and UK, the detention period is 14 days.

"It is important to put [the different laws] into context".

Najib had announced in his special Malaysia Day message on September 15 that the ISA will be abolished and two new laws will be introduced to safeguard peace and order.

"If there is evidence that proves they are a danger to society, then charge them in open court," the Lembah Pantai MP said.

Widespread condemnation of the Bersih 2.0 crackdown led to promises of reforms by the prime minister including the repeal of the ISA, doing away with annual permits for print media and the formation of a parliamentary panel on electoral improvements.

The Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar announced on Thursday that seven Malaysians and six foreigners were arrested in Sabah on Monday under section 73(1) of the ISA to thwart their alleged efforts at reviving a militant movement in the state.

The police have not disclosed the identity of the militant movement.

Ismail and Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein have defended the use of the ISA on the suspected militants, saying the arrests were the result of both internal and foreign intelligence received by the police.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/isa-arrests-proof-pms-reform-pledge-a-lie-says-nurul-izzah/>