

Former detainees welcome move
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KUALA LUMPUR: The repeal of the Internal Security Act received mixed reactions from former detainees and non-governmental organisations.

Even though they welcomed the repeal, they were apprehensive that similar laws would be enacted and called for other preventive laws to be similarly abolished.

DAP chairman and member of parliament Karpal Singh, a former ISA detainee, said he welcomed the news as it was long overdue.

"The act has survived for the past 60 years, it should no longer exist and it was a very bold move by the prime minister. However, the government should look into repealing all prevention-without-trial laws and not just the ISA."

DAP member and state assemblyman M. Manoharan said he was overjoyed at the news. "It was a draconian law and I am relieved that now no one will have to go through what I went through.

"I had suffered terribly under the ISA and I know that many others feel the same. This news should be celebrated."

He called for other such laws, including the Emergency (Public Order and Prevention of Crime) Ordinance 1969 and the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985 to be repealed as well.

Lawyer P. Uthayakumar said the decision was a good move but the repeal of the act should be done with immediate effect.

"The act should be repealed at the next parliamentary session and all ISA detainees have to be released immediately. ISA must also not be replaced by other laws that have similar effects."

Anti-ISA Movement president Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh said the repeal was "great news" as the movement had been demanding for its abolition and not just an amendment.

"It means that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary and dubious detention without trial, mental and physical abuse, and rid the arbitrary powers of police and home affairs minister."

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