

IGP: Emergency laws no longer needed now
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KUALA LUMPUR: The repeal of the Internal Security Act will not affect police work, said Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar.

"We have been entrusted with maintaining internal security and public order and will continue doing so even without the ISA.

"Emergency laws are no longer needed in this time and age," he told the New Straits Times.

Ismail also said the government's move was in line with the country's goal of achieving a developed nation status by 2020.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in his speech had also said that the government would draft two new laws to replace the ISA and ensure public peace and order.

"Where terrorism or militant activities are concerned, we will still not be hampered in carrying out our duties," Ismail said.

The Malaysian Ex-Policemen's Association believed that the government had given it much thought before deciding to repeal the ISA.

Its president, Shafie Bakri, felt that the security of the nation would not be compromised by the decision.

"The government has been accused of being unfair and of denying the rights of the citizens with the implementation of the ISA.

"These allegations should not surface any more since the government has assured that the two new laws they are drafting will take into account the rights of all parties."

Shafie added that although the ISA had played an important role in ensuring the country's security, it was no longer relevant.

Meanwhile, another former police officer, G. Selva Kumar, said with the repeal of the ISA, police would have to improve its procurement of intelligence in investigations.

"Investigations will now have to be more overt and transparent," he said, adding the the government's move to abolish ISA was necessary in keeping with the times.

"Human rights play an important factor in our society today. So this is a timely move."

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