

**Panel to oversee new law**  
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**By SUGANTHI SUPARMANIAM**

SPECIAL BODY: It will ensure the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act will not be abused, says Attorney-General

SHAH ALAM: A SPECIAL committee will be set up soon to monitor the implementation of the Security Offences (Special Measures) 2012 Bill passed by the Dewan Rakyat recently.

Attorney-general Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail said the committee would ensure that the new bill is not abused or misunderstood.

Speaking at a press conference after delivering a lecture on the bill to Universiti Teknologi Mara students of the Law Faculty yesterday, Gani said since the bill had just been passed, a royal consent was required before the committee could be formed.

"It will be a good thing (to have the committee). I have told Bar Council chairman Lim Chee Wee, Suhakam chairman Tan Sri Hasmy Agam and a former chief justice about this and they all agreed (to be in the committee)," he said.

Asked if representatives of political parties would be picked for the committee, Gani said there was no need to do so as it was not a political matter.

"It is tough for me to say that political parties will be represented in this committee, maybe for other matters, but not this. I don't want this to be turned into something political.

"To be frank, I don't want any politician in the committee."

However, he said if he was instructed to include politicians, then he would do so as it was the prime minister's prerogative to pick committee members.

He also said ministers Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz and Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein had met with stakeholders, including the Bar Council and other non-governmental organisations to study the bill.

"We have also taken into consideration opinions from experts in the legal field and from a Queen's counsel.

"I think we just want to get over with the ISA as fast as possible.

" If at all we have made mistakes, it's better than having the ISA," he said, referring to the Internal Security Act which was recently abolished and replaced by the bill.

Gani also said the new bill would allow a person to be detained for investigation purposes for up to 28 days, but the person must be freed if he was no longer being investigated.

"The law is very simple, If you want to detain a person for investigation, then detain and investigate him. Otherwise, release him. If he is not investigated, then the arrest is wrong."

On the option of using an electronic monitoring device on an accused person, Gani said it would be an offence if the accused person broke or caused damage to the device.

"It costs a lot of money and there will be some sort of punishment for breaking the device.

"There will be some who will break it and I will be criticised for it," he said.

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