

PM: Govt will review Sedition Act
TheStarOnline
April 16, 2012
By MAZWIN NIK ANIS and YUEN MEIKENG

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sedition Act 1984 will be reviewed and a new law will also be formulated to replace the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 as part of the Government's political transformation efforts.

The two additional measures were announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who said this reflected the Government's continuous commitment towards efforts towards the political renewal process.

"We are not afraid to compete in the democratic arena and neither do we fear to compare ideas and policies with anyone.

"The Government is open because we believe the era of us knowing everything had ended and we realise the era of the government monopolising wisdom is over," said Najib when tabling the Security Offences (Special Measures) Bill 2012 for second reading at the Dewan Rakyat here Monday.

The Prime Minister said while reviewing the Sedition Act, safeguards would still be in place to prevent anyone from inciting hatred, insulting or create the feeling of being disloyal to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"It will also ensure that no one will be allowed to spread ill feeling, animosity or hostility among races and to question issues, rights, status, position, privileges, sovereignty or prerogative as stated or protected under Articles 151, 153 and 181 of the Federal Constitution," he said.

Najib also assured that while a new law would be drawn up to replace the Printing Presses and Publications Act, the Government's promise to do away with the annual renewal of licence and the setting up of a media council to self-regulate the industry would be maintained.

"We believe we have done the best for citizens of Malaysia. We will continue to implement the best for the people.

"Obviously, our work has not completed. We need to strive harder to ensure our future generation live in a country that is peaceful, prosperous and free from fear and worry," he said.

The Prime Minister said efforts were being made to create a nation where the Constitution and sovereignty of the laws would protect each individual so that he was free to voice opinion, criticise, support, have differing views or become a member of any organisation.

"In short, no one will be punished merely because one execute his rights guaranteed by the Federal Constitution and laws of the nation.

"We yearn for a Malaysia that is the best for its people. For that sake, the Barisan Nasional government will continue to stand firm; we will never retreat but will in fact soldier on to continue to undertake transformation," he said.

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/4/16/nation/20120416105339&sec=nation>