

PM: Special High Court to hear cases under new Security Offences Bill
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KUALA LUMPUR: A special High Court will be set up to hear cases under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Bill 2012, said [Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#).

The Prime Minister said in view of the seriousness of offences committed under the proposed new law, a dedicated court would be set up to try such cases.

"Experienced judges will be given exposure to all forms of security offences and the legal provisions that will be used," he said when tabling the Bill for second reading in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday.

The Prime Minister also said seven safeguards would be in place as the new law would allow an individual be detained by police for investigation purposes beyond the usual practice.

Among the safeguards are those arrested are free to apply for a *habeas corpus* in court and can challenge the reason for their detention and the detention procedures.

He said the powers for judicial review would be fully returned to the courts unlike under the Internal Security Act which prevented such review except in detention procedure.

"The Government and authorities will respect whatever decision made by the courts. If one is freed, he will not be re-arrested to be investigated on the same offence," he said.

The maximum 28 days detention without trial clause will be reviewed every five years and shall cease to have effect unless, upon review, a resolution is passed by both Houses to extend the period of operation of the provision.

Najib said there would be no detention more than 28 days within the period, as an investigation officer must submit papers to the prosecution who had to decide whether the detainee was to be charged or released.

The Prime Minister said when a person was arrested and detained under Section 4, police would have to immediately notify the next-of kin and allow him or her the right to attorney within 48 hours.

"As one of the safeguards, the government will set up a committee to review the Act in total from time to time. The committee will also be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Act and forward recommendations for improvements," he said.

Najib added the committee would comprise members representing various agencies and also the presidents of the Bar Council and Human Rights Commission (Suhakam).

"The last and biggest safeguard is the power of the people. We must remember the rakyat has the power to choose who to form the government every five years. That is the core foundation of a parliamentary democracy system," said the Prime Minister.

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