

Hate laws', more reforms to be tabled soon, says Hishammuddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 — Home Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein revealed today that more fresh laws and legal amendments under his ministry's jurisdiction will soon be proposed, including "hate laws", believed to be part of the replacements for the Internal Security Act (ISA).

The minister, however, did not offer more details on the "hate laws", except to say that it was still under the purview of the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC).

"You have to ask the AGC," he told reporters in Parliament.

But Hishammuddin (picture) confirmed that amendments to the controversial Printing Presses and Publications Act (PPPA) are in the pipeline as well as the introduction of a new Rela Act.

This, he explained, was part of the Najib administration's Political Transformation Programme (PTP).

The Security Offences (Special Measures) Bill, an Act meant to replace the ISA, was tabled earlier this morning in Parliament, promising to abolish the highly-criticised provision of detention without trial and allowing a maximum detention of 28 days for the purpose of investigation.

Today's proposed law is part of the raft of reforms announced in September last year by Datuk Seri Najib Razak, whose administration is poised to face the polls in the coming months.

The prime minister had promised to increase civil liberties following the backlash from his crackdown on Bersih 2.0's rally for free and fair elections.

Among others, the Peaceful Assembly Act was already tabled and passed last year while a parliamentary select committee was formed to look into electoral reforms. The committee has since completed its task and had its recommendations tabled and approved by the House last Tuesday.

The government also tabled amendments to several laws on educational institutions, including the controversial University and University Colleges Act yesterday, promising to lift the ban of student participation in political parties.

"We promised reforms before and now we are fulfilling these promises. This means that the transformation brought by Najib is not just empty talk," Hishammuddin said.

He pointed out that the country's laws have to be altered along with changing times, as threats faced today are different from back then.

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