

**Adopt preventive detention laws but with better check and balance, says MCA  
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It is important that new preventive detention laws had a good and viable system to avoid abuse of power, the MCA said.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said the power to detain a person without trial should not be up to only one person, adding that a review committee should be set up to ensure check and balances.

"This balance is delicate, between having a safe environment and respect for human rights," he pointed out.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced earlier this week that the Government would be tabling the proposed law to replace the repealed Emergency Ordinance (EO) at the Dewan Rakyat sitting in September.

He noted that immediate action had to be taken to bring back public peace and confidence.

Dr Chua, meanwhile, said the recent spike in crime cases had been of utmost concern to Malaysians.

The Star reported the MCA leader as saying that besides affecting the confidence of the people and investors, the crime rate also smears the image of businesses, investment and tourism in the country.

However, he said authorities should not just be dependent on preventive laws to curb violent crimes but also improve on the professionalism of the police force with long-term training, along with the use of advanced tools in forensic investigations.

Dr Chua pointed out that there was a need to beef up police presence, particularly in crime hot spots and more closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) should be installed at public areas to prevent crime.

The public's confidence in authorities, he said, had taken a dive by the fact that police had been implicated in crimes.

"The authorities must show that they mean business when going after criminals and also police personnel who have committed a crime," he said.

Meanwhile, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye urged Malaysians to seriously consider the proposal by Najib to have a new law to replace the EO.

The daily reported that the vice-chairman of the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) said that he had received feedback from the public, who have voiced their concerns that the country was slipping into a state of lawlessness.

The foundation, Lee added, was aware that there were certain quarters who were not in favour of any preventive laws as they were a breach of human rights.

But there were also others who were arguing for the rights of those who have fallen victim to violent crimes - especially for their right to be free from crime, he said, adding that the MCPF executive council will be discussing this issue in a meeting later this month. - August 1, 2013.

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