

**PCA To Create A Safer Environment, Says Dr M  
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By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran**

PETALING JAYA, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- The enactment of the Prevention of Crime Act (PCA) is aimed at creating a safer environment, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the PCA, which was passed in Parliament at midnight, was to contain the increasing rate of serious crimes, following the repeal of the Internal Security Act (ISA).

"The people (citizens) are not safe anymore. People (criminals) do all kinds of things and there are people (contract killers) who take a small fee for killing people.

"I was told a few thousand dollars was enough for them to go and kill people. Do you want that kind of society,?" he asked reporters after the opening of the fifth World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) here Thursday.

Also present were China's Ambassador to Malaysia Chai Xi, Governor of Victoria, Australia Alex Chernov and Council for Promotion and International Trade chairman Wan Jifei. Asked whether the PCA was the reverse to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's earlier move to repeal the ISA, Dr Mahathir said laws were made for the good of the people.

"Yes, you have to be liberal, you have to be free, but there is limit to freedom.

"He (Najib) made the promise, but he didn't foresee the kind of crimes that were committed after the law was repealed.

"But with the (increasing) number of crimes, you are not safe walking in the streets now," he said.

During the ceremony, Dr Mahathir also launched a book, 'Mahathir bin Mohamad on the Contemporary World (A Conversation with Vitaly Naumkin)', which is based on an interview between him and Russian academic Dr Vitaly Naumkin.

A wide range of issues was discussed in the book, including the trajectory of development of contemporary world and the state of relations between the West and Muslim world.

Meanwhile, the two-day WCEF, themed 'Global Economic Partnership: Realising Opportunities, Connecting East and West', garnered more than 600 participants from over 30 countries.

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