

Sedition Act and new anti-terror law to maintain harmony and security, says Najib
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By Hasbullah Awang

Putrajaya's intention in strengthening the Sedition Act is to maintain a harmonious relationship between different races and religions in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In line with this, the prime minister said the government will also table the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in Parliament to enable preliminary steps to be taken to curb terrorism.

"We also prioritise racial and religious harmony. That is why we need to strengthen the Sedition Act," Najib said in his speech at the 208th Police Day anniversary celebration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

On POTA, he gave his assurance that the act which is to be tabled in Parliament soon, would not be used for political purposes. Najib said the executive arm of the government would have no say on detention of suspects under the new act.

"The government also has no intention of using the new act for political purposes. That is why the power to detain is not placed under members of the administration."

Najib said all the government efforts with regards to POTA and strengthening of the Sedition Act are meant to forestall something bad from happening to the country.

"As the saying goes in English, 'prevention is better than cure'. I believe that it is better for us to have preventive detention laws than having someone commit an act of terror.

"If terrorism were to happen, many lives may be affected," he said. – March 26, 2015.

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