

**Sedition Act To Safeguard Malaysia's Peace, Stability - Anifah  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- The government's decision to retain and strengthen the Sedition Act 1948 is made in the interest of preserving peace and stability in multiracial and multicultural Malaysia.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said it was incumbent upon the government to safeguard the country's growth and prosperity, as well as the well-being of the people.

"Thus, appropriate laws need to be in place to tackle issues that could cause racial and religious tension and curb detrimental acts that could breach the harmony enjoyed by all Malaysians," he said in a statement Friday.

Anifah said the government was confident that the Act would protect the interest of each and every Malaysian, and was necessary to prevent racial and religious extremism.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak last month announced the retention of the Sedition Act with additional provisions to strengthen it further.

United States vice-president Joe Biden had reportedly expressed concern over Malaysia's use of the Act "to stifle opposition".

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