

# NEW STRAITS TIMES

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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### REPEALED LEGISLATION: Opposition using this to its advantage

By Megat Shah Rizal Noor Ikhlan, Kuala Lumpur

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**Mahsa University College**  
Centre Of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing Education  
[www.mahsa.edu.my](http://www.mahsa.edu.my)

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I WOULD like to give a word of advice to our prime minister, his cabinet and all other policymakers. Treat any suggestions from the opposition, their lackeys and supporters with a pinch of salt, or better, like we would a poisoned apple.

Their suggestions and demands to date have put the nation in turmoil and disarray. Thank God, for the fair and even-handedness of the police or things could have been worse.

With the repeal of the Internal Security Act (ISA) and the Universities and University Colleges Act, they are now thumbing their noses at the authorities as they proceed from state to state spreading their poison with fervour.

As someone who chose the ISA as a topic for a dissertation, I stand by my opinion that there is nothing wrong with the act itself but the way it was enforced and some of the amendments made to it. The act played its role, as Malaysians, while seemingly mature, are not. As was shown in the last few weeks, they remain immature with some with street credence still thinking they are in their 20s, while those in their 20s emulate and admire these street cats of the past.

These acts had allowed some to cool down their fevered brow while contemplating their actions. With these acts repealed that cooling down opportunity is no longer possible.

The indelible ink was one of their suggestions that was implemented. However, it ended up as a poisoned chalice as any form of its

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weaknesses was milked to their hearts' content and used as evidence of incompetence or ineptness.

My advice to all those concerned -- please do a thorough SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threat) before any of their suggestions are even considered. And if their suggestions are accepted, make sure that the government machinery, mindset and attitude are ready before they are implemented.

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