

No plans to rename ISIS Malaysia, says Shahidan

THE Government has no intention of renaming the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia even though it shares the acronym ISIS with the terror group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

Such a move could lead to changes of other names that share a similar abbreviation, he explained.

"The Government's stance is that the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia has nothing with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, whose acronym ISIS is widely reported in the international media," he said in reply to a supplementary

question by Datuk Norah Abdul Rahman (BN-Tanjong Manis) on whether the Government had plans to change the institute's name because of its acronym.

"However, the Arab countries refer to them as Daesh, which means crushing something under the feet," said Shahidan.

He noted that the institute had been around for more than 30 years since its inception on April 8, 1983. "From the start it has been known as ISIS Malaysia by everyone from within and outside the country," he said.

ISIS Malaysia, he said, had played a role in fostering regional cooperation through strategic work and studies with other Asean countries.