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National service feedback

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Cabinet committee on the implementation of the proposed national service will meet next week to discuss the feedback received, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

"The first meeting will be on Tuesday to discuss the proposals we received. We will then meet with political parties and non-governmental organisations.

"I will meet the Malaysian Youth Council on Thursday," Najib said at a breaking of fast ceremony at Kampung Segambut Dalam today.

Najib, who is also Umno vice-president, was present on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were party vice-president and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Federal Territory Umno liaison chief Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor who is Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, and Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

Najib also handed out food, clothing and money to 1,800 of the less fortunate from around the Federal Territory.

On another issue, Najib said just because the funds used to purchase the vehicle involved in the Oct 12 Bali nightclub bombing were in ringgit or Singapore dollars did not mean that planning for the attack was carried out in both countries.

"This is because the ringgit and Singapore dollars can be acquired in neighbouring countries," he said.

He said this in response to Indonesian police criminal investigation deputy chief Maj Gen I Made Mangku Pastika's statement that the terrorists had links with Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries, as they used ringgit and Singapore dollars to purchase the van.

On whether the statement would affect Malaysia's image, Najib said Made only said both currencies were used, and not that the planning was done in Malaysia.

"It's the same as if he said US dollars or pound sterling was used, it doesn't mean those countries are terrorist countries."