

PM's Office: ISIL remark taken out of context
MalaysiaKini.com
Jun 26, 2014

Najib Abdul Razak's remarks regarding the Islamic State in Iraq and The Levant (ISIL) has been taken out of context, says a media statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office today.

"ISIL was mentioned briefly and in passing, but it is important to note that the prime minister in no way indicated any support for ISIL. Any allegation to the contrary is completely false.

"The Malaysian government classifies ISIL as a terrorist organisation and are doing our part to combat them, for example by arresting suspected ISIL members in Malaysia," it added.

Najib had come under fire from various quarters after it was reported that he told Umno members to emulate the courageous acts of ISIL militants.

The group is more commonly known by the translation of its Arabic name, the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS).

Sham and The Levant are ancient names both referring to what is also known as Eastern Mediterranean. Definitions for the area has varied over time, but it is widely acknowledged to include modern Syria.

Speaking at the dinner to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Cheras Umno (right), the party president was quoted as saying: "For example, when someone dares to fight to their death, they can even defeat a much bigger team."

"As proof — whether we agree or not is another matter — the group ISIL with the strength of just 1,300 people, can defeat an Iraqi army of 30,000 soldiers, until four, five generals with three, four stars run for their lives, jump out the window at night."

"Why? Because they are afraid of those who are brave."

Meanwhile, the statement noted that Najib's strong stance over many years against violence and extremism is on record and remains undiminished.

"The prime minister has called for a Global Movement of the Moderates, rejecting extremism in all its forms, and he will continue to advocate for moderation," it added.

