

**Deal with 'separatists' at home too, Najib told  
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's handling of the MH17 incident has been a shot in the arm as far as his image is concerned.

However, former law minister Zaid Ibrahim cautioned against over-excitement, saying: "A single swallow does not make spring."

While crediting Najib for negotiating with the Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine to retrieve the remains of the MH17 victims and black boxes, Zaid also pointed out a similar task that needed the prime minister's urgent attention at home.

"I believe he did the right thing in dealing with the separatists (in Ukraine). But it takes more creativity and courage to deal with the 'separatists' at home.

"He needs to stand up to those who are deliberately fostering racial hatred; who undermine national unity in the most fundamental way.

"Until he does so and provides leadership for this country; we must not be over-excited about the new Najib," he added in his blog.

What about MH370 and Sabah?

Zaid also said he was perplexed as to why there were no special Parliament sittings convened on the incursion in Sabah and missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

"The point I am making is this: the special sitting of Parliament is required not just when things look good for the prime minister.

"It must be summoned whenever we have grave and difficult situations to face, regardless of what it would do to the PM's image.

"A special sitting is not the place just to receive accolades and adulation, but where the government's accountability is put to the test," he said.

Zaid was commenting on Wednesday's special sitting of the Dewan Rakyat called by Najib on the MH17 tragedy, at which Najib received praise from both sides of the political divide.

Apart from the Sulu insurgents, Zaid said, there was also no special sitting to debate the findings of the royal commission on the allegations that hundreds of thousands of foreigners were given identity cards in Sabah.

"There has been absolutely no news on this front either. Is this not also a security threat that warrants national attention?" he asked.

As for MH370, "which was no less tragic than MH17", Zaid said the government must brief the people on its handling of the tragedy.

"The government must be prepared to face questions from MPs, if only to convince the public that everything that needed to be done was done.

"At the very least, we could as a nation offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims, the way we did with MH17 (plus we can make the usual bravado resolutions to say that we intend to seek justice from the perpetrators, where ever they might be)," he added.

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