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Esscom to **focus** on four strategic categories

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PM: Better security via intelligence, surveillance, interception and arrest

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LAHAD DATU: Four key strategic categories of operations will be the focus of the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom).

Intelligence gathering is a key area in efforts to ensure that any potential threat is identified and neutralised, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The second focus is on heightening and improving coastal surveillance.

The other two categories are increasing the ability to intercept intruders and strengthening the ability to capture intruders who manage to slip into Sabah.

"These areas of concern are to ensure the security of the people.

"We want people to feel safe," Najib said after launching the Esscom headquarters at the Lahad Datu marine police headquarters here yesterday.

However, he said Sabah's investments remained undisturbed and Lahad Datu's Palm Oil Industrial Cluster was not affected by the incident in which Sulu gunmen intruded into Kampung Tanduo before they were flushed out by security forces.

He said the Government had quickly set up Esscom and created positions as first announced on March 6.

"The creation of 46 positions including the director-general's post for Esscom within 24 hours is the fastest decision (by the Public Service Commission)," Najib said.

He added that the positions included the creation of two posts for the security forces with the rank of major-general and two for the police with the rank of commissioner.

"Of the 48 positions, 36 have been filled and the rest will be filled soon," he said.

Security was also being strengthened with the involvement of Felda's 100 auxiliary policemen and the



Cleaning up: Najib visiting the Esscom headquarters in Lahad Datu. — Bernama

creation of four platoons of territorial army reserves in the Felda Sahabat area.

Esscom is the enforcement agency for the Eastern Sabah Safety Zone

(Esszone), which covers 10 districts — Kudat, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Beluran, Sandakan, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Kunak, Semporna and Tawau — along a stretch of 1,400km in

Sabah's east coast.

A sum of RM200mil has been allocated for Esscom and further allocations will be made available depending on needs.

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