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PRIME NEWS

# PM: Time for negotiations over

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**MAJOR ASSAULT:**  
Move to preserve  
nation's sovereignty  
and peace

KUALA LUMPUR

**M**ALAYSIA will now use all its might to defend its sovereignty and maintain peace after exhausting all possible options, including accommodating an extended time frame, to allow the terrorists in Sabah to retreat.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government's initial stance of allowing a window of negotiations between the Sulu terrorists and Malaysia was now officially over.

"Our *berhemah* (courteous) stance initially was to prevent bloodshed in Sabah, whether they involved Malaysians or the intruders. But I am disappointed that our sincere and good intention was met with the shooting and murder of our police personnel.

"As the head of the government, I have decided that the time to give any consideration to this (crisis) has ended and we need to act with all our might because when it comes to our country's sovereignty and peace, we will not allow an inch of Malaysia's land to be at stake or encroached on by anyone."

Najib, in addressing a crowd of 16,000 who attended the Perhimpunan Perdana Ulama-Umara-Asnaf gathering of religious scholars and leaders at Stadium Putra, Bukit Jalil, here, yesterday, was sombre when he disclosed this.

He said security forces were in the midst of a major air and land assault operation, which included the deployment of aircraft, armoured vehicles and use of mortars against the terrorists in Lahad Datu, where the first two killings of



An armoured vehicle leaving Kampung Tanduo, Lahad Datu, after taking part in the mission to flush out Sulu terrorists holed up there. Bernama pic



police commandos had occurred on Friday.

"Even as I speak, the Malaysian army and police personnel in armoured vehicles, as well as other personnel trailing the vehicles, are tracking those who had violated the country's sovereignty."

He said he was confident Malaysia were fully behind the government's decision for a military strike.

Eight security personnel were killed in separate armed raids involving terrorists claiming to be descendants of the Sulu sultanate at two locations in Sabah since Friday.

Najib also honoured the eight

security personnel killed by leading the crowd in a recital of the *al Fatiha*.

He read out their names and shared how he felt the grief of the men's next of kin.

"May their souls be blessed and placed among the *syuhadah* (martyrs) and the faithful."

Najib also shared how affected he was when he met the widows and children of the fallen heroes.

"The intrusion into Malaysia by foreign groups has led to the death of our soldiers. It is

heartbreaking to go to the airport to receive the bodies of these national heroes.

"When I faced the widows and their children, I was very sad. One of them was pregnant. The son, aged 5 or 6, told me his father was bombed... as if his father would come back."

*"There are people who dare to accuse the government of orchestrating it."*  
Datuk Seri Najib Razak

Najib also took a swipe at the opposition for accusing the government of being behind the crisis.

"There are people who dare to accuse the government of orchestrating it. I don't know

what to say to people like these. Human beings don't talk like that, so heartless and despicable."

"What kind of human is this? It's such a vile thing to have come out of someone's mouth."

The government on Monday issued a legal notice to Parti Keadilan Rakyat vice-president Tian Chua for associating the attacks in Sabah with Umno.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor had said a lawyer's notice was issued to Tian Chua to retract the statement, which described the Lahad Datu attacks as a "planned conspiracy of the Umno government" to divert attention and intimidate the people.