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PM: Have empathy for fighting men

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NO CONSPIRACY: Don't belittle security personnel's struggle to defend country

PUTRAJAYA

DATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday urged the people to have empathy for security personnel and to stand solidly behind them in their struggle.

The prime minister said it was necessary for the people to understand what the policemen and soldiers were going through and what they would go through.

"They (the people) will not give their support unless they are able to understand what our security personnel have to go through in their line of duty."

He said this at a meeting with retired senior officers of the Malaysian armed forces here.

"They have to understand their duties, challenges, obstacles and risks.

"Unless they understand these, there will be no empathy."

Present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Chief of Defence Forces Gen Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin.

He said that was why the people must stand solidly behind the police and military while the nation faced foreign threats.

"We must understand the military world. If we had understood

the military world, then we would not have made statements that denied the integrity of our armed forces and police.

"We would not have belittled their capability and there would not have been any statement from any rude leaders that what had transpired in Lahad Datu and Semporna was purportedly a drama staged by the Umno government."

Because of this, Najib said the people were angry and many police reports had been lodged because there had never been any pact or conspiracy between the government and the armed forces.

"If there were, certainly you who are here at this function can confirm it.

"It's not possible for any conspiracy without your knowledge.

"If we had collaborated to stage the drama, certainly the top and junior officers would know about it."

Similarly, Najib said when the incident in Sauk, Perak, took place previously, it was also said to be a conspiracy and drama by the government.

"It was no 'drama' in Sauk nor in Lahad Datu and Semporna. There was no conspiracy at all.

"This is something irrational spoken by an irresponsible leader.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak talking to retired senior officers of the armed forces at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

"As such, we must continue with our struggles."

He expressed full confidence that members of the security forces would carry out their task as desired by the government and the people.

"I'm confident that we can over-

come this test, challenge and threat. We will fight to the end no matter how long it takes, no matter what price we have to pay.

"We will ensure that our sovereignty and security will not be jeopardised by anyone.

"This is my pledge.

"As for the government, it needs the strong support from serving members of the security forces..."

Najib said if there were doubts among the top officers on whatever situation, this could bring about elements that could demoralise the security personnel. **Bernama**

