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PM thanks all who assisted in rescue

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday expressed his gratitude over the return of all 22 crew members of the MT *Orkim Harmony*.

“*Alhamdulillah* (praise be to God), all 22 members of MT *Orkim Harmony* have been released this morning (Friday).

“Thank you to all who worked to secure their safe release,” he posted on Twitter yesterday.

The vessel was taken over by pirates last Thursday en route from Malacca to the Kuantan Port.

After a search-and-rescue operation, the boat was recovered yesterday, together with its 22-member crew, 16 of whom are Malaysians.

Meanwhile, Najib also said fasting served as a reminder for Muslims to be more disciplined, firm and patient in facing any temptation during Ramadan.

Via a radio broadcast from his blog NajibRazak.com yesterday, he urged Muslims to put aside conflict and hostility in the holy month, as it would not benefit them, but would only waste their time and drain their energy.

“*Alhamdulillah*, we have begun fasting. The Prophet (Muhammad

S.A.W) said all the good deeds of Muslims are multiplied tenfold, equivalent to 700 times during the month of Ramadan.

“God said, ‘Except for fasting, done in my name, for which I will reward, they (Muslims) will forsake their desires’.

“Hopefully, God will accept our prayers and good deeds,” Najib said.

He also called on Muslims to take the opportunity to carry out commandments from Allah.

Najib also gave his assurance that the government would provide food and shelter to the 755 flood and landslide victims in Ranau, Sabah.

“I am saddened by the news of the floods and landslides in Ranau, Sabah, which have reached 755 people.

“The federal and state governments will provide food, medicines and shelter to the victims.

“I pray that the situation will turn around soon,” he said via a Facebook post yesterday.

Commenting on the recently passed Animal Welfare Act, Najib, on Facebook, said the new law would protect animals from inhumane acts, and those who tortured animals would be charged.