

Newspaper	THE SUN
Date	26 MARCH 2015

POTA only to combat violent extremism

*the sun
- 26/3/2015*

> Proposed law to safeguard peace and security, says Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: The proposed Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2015 will only be used against those involved in violent extremism, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said.

Assuring that there is no political motive in the proposed POTA, he said the proposed Act is to safeguard peace and security and there is no need for the government to be apologetic about it.

"Some people will say that these laws are undemocratic or threaten their freedom.

"Well, there is no such thing as absolute freedom. Freedom without responsibility has no place in this country," Najib said at the 208th Police Day celebration at the Pulapol Parade Square here yesterday.

Najib was responding to public

PM conveys condolences

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has conveyed his condolences to the families and friends of the passengers and crew of a Germanwings Airbus flight that crashed in France on Tuesday.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those on board Germanwings Flight 4U 9525," he said in a Twitter post yesterday.

concerns that the law may be used by certain parties for their benefit.

The concern came after provisions in POTA, as well as the planned amendments to the Sedition Act 1948, would provide detention without trial.

Najib said the new law will be

administered by a competent body and not by members of the administration as its objective is to prevent the proliferation of acts of terrorism that will threaten national security.

He added that the laws are to combat new challenges, including the rise of the IS (Islamic State), and should not be used by certain groups for their own political ends.

"Only those who raise the threat of violent extremism can be detained under this new Act," Najib said.

"We have to act first to prevent terrorism because the consequences can be disastrous if we are late in doing so," he said.

Najib added that people should not show disrespect to the police as they are the ones who have to uphold the law to ensure peace in the country.

"Nowadays, there are people who make fun of police officers. These people are very irresponsible. The police should be respected as they are the one who uphold the rule of law," Najib said.