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Don't be complacent about security, says PM

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia must have a coherent and comprehensive national security strategy in tandem with the present situation, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said that at this time of heightened risk, Malaysia must never be complacent about national security.

"The importance of national security not only remains today but has increased.

"There is no greater priority than to secure our national security," he said when launching a coffee table book titled *Mission Accomplished: The Military Journey of Gen Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Hashim Mohd Ali (Rtd) From Soldier to Leader* at Perdana Putra Buildrig here yesterday.

Najib said when he started his first term as Defence Minister in 1991, Jen Hashim was the Chief of

Defence Forces and together they worked towards implementing and managing Malaysia's National Defence Policy.

"Solidifying national security was our common objective.

"We managed to revamp and modernise the Malaysian Armed Forces to meet the ever-changing threats and took measures to minimise the risk of conflict.

"I wish to thank the present Armed Forces chief Jen Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin, who is building on Hashim's legacy by doing critical work for Malaysia to secure our national security," he said.

Jen Hashim was the Defence Forces chief between 1987 and 1992.

Najid added that he and Jen Hashim believed that national security was related to regional and international security and that it was in Malaysia's interest to expand its outlook and experience.

"This included taking part in

peacekeeping duties in areas of conflict and consolidating global ties.

"Hashim is a great proponent of military diplomacy and he has worked tirelessly to maintain relations with military leaders around the world.

"In him, I found a steadfast partner - a man who exemplified honour, dedication and devotion to his

country," he said.

Jen Hashim later told newsmen about the importance of upholding tradition and discipline, stressing that Malaysians need to understand the value of peace that they were enjoying today.

"We have seen what chaos can do to a country.

"I pray we do not have to go

through that again," he said.

Jen Hashim also said it was important for the military to support the government of the day, which had been a practice in Malaysia.

Good read:
Najib reading the coffee table book while Jen Hashim looks on. With them is Pernama Chairman Jen (rtd) Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Zainal. — Bernama