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PM appreciates navy's sacrifices

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smAWAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak paid tribute to the sacrifices made by security forces in protecting the nation's sovereignty.

He said the government was aware of the heavy responsibilities shouldered by members of the security forces.

"While some can be with their family at this time, many of you here are at the frontline carrying out your duties."

Najib said he understood the feelings of their wives and children, who could not celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri with their husbands and fathers.

"Their husbands and fathers have to work to ensure the people can live and sleep peacefully," he said at a gathering of personnel at the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) base here yesterday evening.

"This is the price for peace and the gentlemen here are paying it on behalf of the country's 28 million citizens."

He said what the government had done in terms of welfare involving the security forces was worth it.

"Incidents can happen suddenly such as the *Orkim Harmony* tanker that was taken by pirates.

"The incident shocked Malaysia, but thanks to the navy, the tanker was recovered," he said, noting that the tanker incident was one of the many incidents handled by the navy.

Najib also assured them that the government would continue to develop the navy so its personnel would feel proud.

"There is no end to our wish list, but we are hampered by our financial capabilities," he said.

Najib, who is also finance minister, later approved a RM8.5 million allocation to upgrade the RMN's Masjid An-Nur to accommodate a 5,000 congregation from



its present 3,000.

Earlier, the prime minister arrived by helicopter at the Sitiawan Airport at 4.30pm, accompanied by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

He proceeded to the Astaka Ramadan bazaar and spent about 30 minutes visiting food stalls at the bazaar and bought buka puasa delicacies.

Among the delicacies he had bought were *ayam percik*, *roti john*, sugarcane juice and various *kuih*.

He also distributed *bubur lambuk* to the people, courtesy of the Lumut Umno division.

Also present were state secretary Datuk Seri Abdul Puhat Mat Nayan, Perak state legislative assembly Speaker Datuk Seri S.K.

Deevamany, state executive councillors and a number of assemblymen.

He later adjourned to Masjid Afiyah in Batu 3, Segari, to perform his *maghrib* prayers and breaking of fast.

He was accompanied by Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Dr Zambry and a 1,000-strong congregation members.