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National Security Council Act proposed

THE government will table a National Security Council (NSC) Act to strengthen the agency's role in combating security and terrorism threats against the country, said Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak. *

The prime minister (PM) said the new act which will be tabled at the current Parliament sitting will put the NSC at par with similar agencies in the US and UK.

"In line with the changing geopolitical landscape and the type of threats from non-state actors, regardless of whether from overseas or within, violent extremism in Malaysia is real and the government has given due attention to combat it.

"Therefore, the government is now in the process of strengthening the NSC to



Najib (centre) leaving the Parliament after the Dewan Rakyat sitting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

Pic by Hafzi Mohamed

make it more efficient and effective in streamlining the policies as well as the country's security strategies," Najib said in the Parliament yesterday.

Najib said the NSC transformation will include the study on its roles, functions and exe-

cution of policies.

He said the NSC Act will empower the council with legal powers similar to other countries like the US, India, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, the UK and many others.

Meanwhile, Deputy PM Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had dismissed speculations that Malaysia is being used as the hub for international terrorists.

Dismissing the claims as baseless and unverified, he said the country's security levels are at the optimum and the threat of terrorism from inside and outside the country is under control.

"Based on the surveillance conducted by the Royal Malaysia Police, Malaysia is merely a transit country," he said during the Parliament's question time.

So far, 132 people with links to terrorist groups have been detained by the police with the help of international intelligence agencies. — by P PREM KUMAR