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PRIME NEWS

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Military action alone inadequate, says Najib

ROOT CAUSES:

Moderation, tolerance are key in fighting terrorism

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POLICIES of moderation, tolerance and understanding are the keys in the fight against terrorism, especially in a multiracial society like Malaysia,

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

Speaking at the United Nations Association Malaysia (Unam) dinner that was held at Mandarin Oriental here, he said, the initiative on the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) was still relevant as it was five years ago.

He said as military action alone was inadequate without addressing the root causes, preventive measures and deradicalisation campaigns, as well as rehabilitation programmes, were necessary to combat the threat of violent extremism and terrorism.

"Education plays a vital role so



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak greeting Unam chairman Tan Sri Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen Tengku Ismail in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Mhd Zaaba Zakaria

that our younger generations grow up being taught the true essence of Islam and other religions, which all advocate peace and justice," he said.

He said Asean and Malaysia were not immune to terrorism threats with the Islamic State (IS) group spreading its influence to many Muslims.

"We know there are followers of IS who want to spread their misguided beliefs to Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries in the region.

"Some Malaysians have travelled to fight for IS, and those who return home could pose a serious threat," he said, adding that important ar-

rests were made just days before the Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur in April.

"Only a few weeks ago, individuals known to be IS supporters were apprehended here as they were planning to attack popular areas."

Besides GMM, Malaysia had also set up the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT), which, up until last year, had conducted 164 programmes attended by over 6,500 participants from around the world.

SEARCCT also works closely with the UN Counter Terrorism Execu-

tive Directorate.

Malaysia and Japan are also the lead countries for Priority Area Counter Radicalisation in the Asean Regional Forum Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017, which aims to impede the spread of extremist ideologies.

"I believe Malaysia and Asean member countries are well organised to deal with such threats, and I have outlined steps to improve the collaboration."

Present was Unam chairman Tan Sri Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen Tengku Ismail.