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# Najib: Security my **first** priority

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> I will not apologise for taking every step to preserve safety of nation, says PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia will not wait for an outrage to take place or expose its citizens to violent extremism before putting all necessary measures in place as the threats of terrorism are real in the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said he will not allow Malaysia to be vulnerable to radicalisation that it would concede to the extremists' appeal and reach, "unlike other countries that do not have the legislation to deal with the problem promptly and early".

He offered no apology for taking every step to preserve the safety of the nation.

"The security of all Malaysians is my first priority," he said in his speech at the opening of The International Conference on Deradicalisation and Countering Violence Extremism 2016 here

yesterday morning.

Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. Among the other delegates were home and interior ministers from 17 countries, and security agencies and counter-terrorism experts.

Najib said the threat of violent extremism is real in Malaysia and gave an example of an arrest 10 days ago of a suspect planning a suicide attack in the country.

"That's why we passed the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act or Sosma, the Special Measures against Terrorism in Foreign Countries

Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the National Security Council Act," he said.

"The law is there to protect us all, but the intention of those who want to bomb, maim and behead can never be placed above the peaceful majority who firmly reject violence and war," he added.

Assuring that the government will be dauntless in its battle against radicalisation, the prime minister vilified the blasphemy groups, namely Daesh and Islamic State radicals.

"You do not act in our name. There can be nothing Islamic about terrorism. Hundreds have died, and

many have been terribly injured. And for what? Not for Islam," he said.

He said Malaysia would work tirelessly towards reversing the ideological misconceptions that fuel extremism via digital media, by taking the lead in establishing the Regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communications Centre, which would synchronise efforts in Asean and beyond.

"It is vital that all authorities - our mufti, ulama, media commissions, tech-savvy young people - ensure that the messaging centre puts out is solid, persuasive and real," he said.