

Newspaper	MALAYSIAN RESERVE
Date	29 JULY 2016

# Najib defends National Security Council Act

Malaysian Reserve - 29/7/2016

by AZREEN HANI

DATUK Seri Mohd Najib Razak defended the implementation of the National Security Council (NSC) Act, saying it has been deliberately misinterpreted.

The prime minister said the government introduced the Act together with the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, the Special Measures against Terrorism in Foreign Countries Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act, following requests from security forces to confront the Daesh global threats. The Act, which gives the government wide-ranging powers, will be in

force on Aug 1, next week.

"The NSC Act in particular has been deliberately misinterpreted. It is not the same as a declaration of national emergency — that power remains with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong — and Parliament remains sitting with oversight on any security area declared," Najib said on his blog at *NajibRazak.com*.

"We were criticised for passing these laws, including by some who fear-mongered for political reasons.

"My government will never apologise for placing the safety and security of the Malaysian people first. These laws were necessary, and other countries

have since followed our lead."

Najib said Malaysia is not immune to the Daesh threat as evident by the group's first attack in Puchong last month.

"I can assure Malaysians that the government will continue to put all possible measures in place to protect you.

"Daesh and its cruel, perverted ideology has no place in Islam, nor in our peaceful, diverse and tolerant country," said Najib.

He asked Malaysians to unite and play an even greater part in the fight against terrorism with the world community.

In October last year, Najib said that the government was strengthening the NSC to

make it more efficient and effective in line with the country's security strategies.

The NSC Act was passed in December last year. However, the law has been drawing brickbats over the broad power bestowed on the prime minister.

Critics also argued that the NSC Act would be misused against the Opposition and dissenting voices. The government, however, said all these claims were baseless.

Najib said the Act will empower the council with legal powers, similar to legislation in countries such as the US, India, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, the UK and many others.



My govt will never apologise for placing the safety and security of the Malaysian people first, says Najib

TMRpk