

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	30 JULY 2016

Call to look into security SOPs

NST- 30/7/2016

SAFETY FIRST:
Umno urges review
of guidelines,
increased awareness

**ADRIAN LAI
AND FERNANDO FONG**
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

UMNO has urged the government to look into security standard operating procedures (SOPs) and guidelines to ensure the safety of the people.

Party president Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also prime minister, said kidnappings in eastern Sabah

waters, illegal arms smuggling at the Malaysia-Thailand border and brazen murders in broad daylight called for the tightening of security measures.

“Certainly, the most serious threat is the Islamic State. Malaysia is not excluded from the IS threat after the incident at the Movidia nightclub.

“Even though the incident was not very serious, this calls for all quarters to increase security awareness and review security measures, including SOPs, directives and guidelines, so we are ready to face any threat,” he said after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting here yesterday.

He said no country could assure the prevention of terror attacks, but what the government could do was improve its ability to combat ter-

rorism, readiness and increase co-operation between all quarters.

He said Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also deputy prime minister, had announced the proposed rebranding of Op Cantas to Op Cantas 2.0 to better combat organised crime.

Najib said this would be followed by an in-depth study on illegal arms smuggling and a review of the relevant security measures to tackle other threats.

“We have to assume that security threats are real for all countries. Malaysia is no exception.”

He said the IS reach was very wide, and the government had to assume the worst and be prepared.

The country, he added, faced a bigger challenge due to the openness of Malaysian society, where

people are relaxed and informal.

“As leaders of the government, when there are open houses and events, we have to greet, shake hands and take pictures with the public.

“The people can easily approach any leader and this has always been the case. I don’t want to change this, but I want to increase our readiness and control,” said Najib.

He added that the Supreme Council had been given a briefing on the latest developments, and understood that changes must become the norm before something worse happened.

“The people have to realise that if we come up with new rules, it is only for their safety.”

Earlier, Najib announced the appointment of Datuk Seri Salleh Said

Keruak as the new Umno treasurer, replacing Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, who resigned from the post last month.

He also congratulated Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad’s appointment as the new Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief and Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali’s transfer to the Immigration Department as its new director-general.

“I believe that the appointment of the two leaders will enable these two bodies to conduct their responsibilities well.”

In the morning, Najib joined thousands at Wanita Umno’s Hari Raya Aidilfitri do, and later launched Puteri Umno’s charity screening of the *Mencari Sumaiyah* musical theatre. **Additional reporting by Hana Naz Harun**

