



PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
Y A Y A S A N  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA

PERDANA LIBRARY  
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION  
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Newspaper | NEW STRAITS TIMES |
| Date      | 18 OCTOBER 2016   |

# No compromise on nation's sovereignty in sea dispute, says PM

**THE** government will not compromise on the sovereignty of the country in light of the ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said Malaysia's stand on the issue was that any problems, differences or disputes should be handled and resolved through dialogue and peaceful negotiations.

Najib pointed out that to that end, Asean and China had signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) on Nov 4, 2002.

"At this moment, Asean and China are engaged in efforts to create the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

"However, I would like to state that the DOC and COC are not instruments to resolve the issue of overlapping claims in the South China Sea," he said in reply to Datuk Hasan Arifin (BN-Rompin) yesterday.

Najib said Malaysia did not sign any agreement with either the United States or Australia on the South China Sea issue, as the country's interests came first before any other nations'.

"Patrols, monitoring, surveil-

lance and enforcement will always be carried out to ensure the interests and security of our country are preserved."

Najib said Malaysia's position was that countries involved in the dispute should ensure peace and stability in the region, and should avoid provocative acts.

"All (territorial) claims and solutions must be based on international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982."

Najib said despite China's good relations with Malaysia, the government would ensure that the country's sovereignty was left unthreatened.

"I need to explain that China is a friendly and strategic partner to Malaysia.

"Close relations with China have continued to develop since we established diplomatic ties with them in 1974.

"Therefore, differences of opinion with China on the South China Sea issue should not block our economic and business ties," said Najib, adding that other areas of cooperation such as defence should be further strengthened for mutual benefit.

NST- 18/10/2016