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Use ideology to fight terrorism, says Najib

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS

mazwin@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: The fight against terror must be multi-pronged, not only through military might and law enforcement but also through ideological warfare to win over radicals, the Prime Minister said.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said fighting such an ideological war was just as important as physically preventing acts of terror, and this could be done by drawing radical groups and individuals into understanding the true narratives of Islam.

"The war against terror needs more than weapons and getting the police to act.

"We must get them (radicals) to understand the true meaning and teachings of Islam.

"They need to truly comprehend what the religion demands from its followers," he said at the monthly gathering of the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

Saddened by the recent terror attacks in Kabul, Manchester, Jakarta, Marawi and the latest incident in London, the Prime Minister said that while Malaysians were thankful such incidents had not happened here, the threat was serious.

He also warned of people who believed they were doing good deeds when in reality, their actions brought about destruction.

"We must ensure that those among us do not have such perceptions. We must continue to main-

tain peace so that we can carry on with our duty to build this country and look after the well-being of the people," he added.

He also said the country had recorded a Gross Domestic Product growth of 5.6% in the first quarter, an achievement he described as encouraging and impressive.

He was pleased that for the first time in history, export value surpassed RM80bil a month with RM82.83bil recorded in March.

The healthy economic performance also saw the country getting more international recognition, he said, including from BAV Consulting and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, which placed Malaysia as the best country in the world to invest in this year.

"We must continue to record successes. This Government must show that it can achieve its targets and does not make empty promises to the people.

"As a responsible Government, we fulfil our promises," said Najib.

The gathering was also attended by Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein for the first time since his appointment as Special Functions Minister in April.

This did not go unnoticed by the Prime Minister, who told the crowd that Hishammuddin should be made to sing for them.

At these assemblies, a choir usually performs songs ranging from patriotic numbers to current hits.

"But since it's Ramadan, we shall give him an exemption," Najib said in jest.

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