

**Najib Urges People To Have Empathy For Security Forces' Personnel**  
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PUTRAJAYA, March 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Saturday urged the people to have empathy for the security forces' personnel and to stand solidly behind them in their every struggle.

The prime minister said it was necessary for the people to understand what the policemen and soldiers were going through and what they would go through.

"They (the people) will not give their support unless they are able to understand what our security forces' personnel have to go through in their line of duty," he said at a meeting with retired senior officers of the Malaysian Armed Forces, here.

"They have to understand their duties, challenges, obstacles and risks. Unless they understand these, there will be no empathy," he said.

Also present at the meeting were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Chief of Defence Forces Gen Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin.

The Prime Minister said that was why the people must stand solidly behind the security forces, namely the police and military, while the nation faced foreign threat.

"We must understand the military world and if we understand the military world, then we would not have made statements that denied the integrity of our armed forces and police.

"We would not have belittled their capability and there would not have been any statement from any rude leader that what had transpired in Lahad Datu and Semporna were purportedly a drama staged by the Umno government," he said.

Because of this, Najib said, the people were angry and many police reports had been lodged, because there had never been any pact or conspiracy between the government and the armed forces.

"If there were, certainly you who are here at this function can confirm it, it's not possible for any conspiracy without your knowledge. If we had collaborated to stage the drama, certainly the top and junior officers would know about it," he said.

Similarly, Najib said, when the incident in Sauk took place previously, it was also accused as a conspiracy and drama by the government. There was no drama in Sauk nor in Lahad Datu and Semporna, there was no conspiracy at all.

"This is something irrational issued by an irresponsible leader, as such we must continue with our struggles," he said.

As such, the Prime Minister expressed full confidence that members of the security forces would carry out their task as desired by the government and the people.

"I'm confident that we can overcome this test, challenge and threat. We will fight to the end no matter how long it takes, no matter what price we have to pay, we will ensure that our sovereignty and security will not be jeopardised by anyone.

"This is my pledge. As for the government, it needs the strong support from the serving members of the security forces...(it) is hoping for the solid support of the top military commander," he said.

Najib said if there were doubts among the top officers on whatever situation, this could bring about elements that could demoralise the security forces personnel.

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