

**True Strength Is When People Stand Firm Behind Government - Najib
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CAREY ISLAND, March 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said true strength is when the people continue to stand firm behind the government in defending the country's security and sovereignty.

He said the government would continue to defend the country's security and sovereignty with all its might.

"Besides the strength from the police and the armed forces, its the people's strength, but the true strength is when the people stand firmly behind the government in defending the country's security and sovereignty," he said when launching a housing scheme for workers and former workers of Sime Darby Plantations here today.

Najib said the people were actually indebted to members of the security forces who sacrificed their lives to defend the country against the enemies so that the people were safe and able to live in peace.

"While we are gathered here today, an operation against the enemies is being carried out in Lahad Datu, Sabah.

"If there is no peace in the country, we would not have been able to enjoy all the comforts," he added.

Yesterday, Najib, while at Felda Sahabat 16, Lahad Datu for a first-hand look of the "Ops Daulat" operation to flush out terrorists from southern Philippines into the east coast of Sabah, said that Kuala Lumpur would not consider any request for a ceasefire so long as the armed intruders did not lay down their arms unconditionally.

On Tuesday morning, the security forces launched an offensive assault on the Sulu intruders in Kampung Tanduo, Lahad Datu.

The security forces detained 79 people suspected of having links with the intrusion by the militant group in Kampung Tanduo since last Feb 12.

Since the intrusion, eight policeman have been killed, two in an attack at Kampung Tanduo on March 1 and six others in an ambush in Semporna the following day, while the number of intruders killed stand at 52.

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