

PM Assures Eastern Sabah Residents Of Safe Polls
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the security forces will ensure a safe environment for the residents in eastern Sabah in the wake of a terrorist intrusion to enable them exercise their right as voters in the 13th general election.

The prime minister said: "Every vote is important. Don't waste it; don't gamble away the future of our children and the country.

"Think wisely before making a decision; this is because your votes will determine not only the country's direction but also the fate of our children and grandchildren."

Najib addressed the nation live over radio and television today to announce the dissolution of the Dewan Rakyat to enable the general election to be held.

Much of eastern Sabah has been placed under the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) after armed intruders from the southern Philippines entered Lahad Datu on Feb 12 and subsequently killed eight policemen and a soldier, resulting in a government offensive to eliminate the terrorists.

The incident caused the relocation of several villages in the Felda Sahabat plantation in Lahad Datu. Many villagers were allowed to return to their homes after the security forces gave the assurance that the area was safe.

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