

Najib: Country's sovereignty and Sabahans' safety at stake
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PETALING JAYA: The Government has gone on the offensive against the Sulu invaders to defend the honour and sovereignty of the country as efforts to avoid bloodshed had failed, the Prime Minister said.

"The police held talks with them, hoping they would leave peacefully and without having to bear the serious consequences of the law," said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"However, the longer the intrusion, it become clear to the authorities that the invaders had no intention to leave Sabah.

"Last Friday, they fired shots at policemen on duty in the area, causing the deaths of two personnel.

"A day later, invaders killed six more policemen in Semporna," Najib pointed out.

He said that after the first attack, he had warned the invaders to surrender, failing which the authorities would take action.

"The safety of Sabahans is our priority," said Najib.

Malaysian security forces went on the offensive against the invaders in Kampung Tanduo at 7am yesterday.

Najib said Malaysia was an Islamic country that loved peace and preferred to resolve conflicts via diplomacy.

"But our efforts to avoid bloodshed failed," he said.

"And drastic measures had to be taken in view of Sabahans' safety."

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