

Special medals for Ops Daulat
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IN APPRECIATION: Those who went extra mile to defend nation from militants will be recognised, says PM

LAHAD DATU: THE deeds of those who went the extra mile to defend the country during Ops Daulat will not go unrecognised.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday said those who qualify would be conferred Pingat Kedaulatan Negara medals in appreciation of the services provided by the Malaysian security forces and government agencies involved in Ops Daulat.

"Your deeds to the country in its time of need will not be forgotten," he said during an appreciation ceremony at the Desa Kencana Hall in Felda Sahabat where he presented 33 individuals with the medals.

About 5,000 members of security forces, voluntary organisations and the public attended the event.

Najib said the PKN medals could be given to any individual who was involved in Ops Daulat, which was carried out to fight the intrusion in Lahad Datu by militants from southern Philippines.

One of the recipients, Sabah's 5th Brigade commander Brigadier General Datuk Ranjit Singh Ramday said servicemen like him did not expect any rewards for carrying out their responsibilities.

"But if it is given to us, it becomes priceless. I will treasure this medal because it is given to me by the government in recognition of my contributions," said Ranjit, who has been in the thick of the action over the last two months after the armed intrusion.

Naval officer Lt Commander Fadzir Talib said he felt proud of the recognition given for his services during the intrusion. "It is an honour for me to receive this medal and this will serve to spur me to continue serving the country and the people," said Fadzir, who is based on KD Sri Semporna at the Semporna naval base.

Among other recipients were five policemen, Sgt Major Sakrani Hashim, Sgt Major Sharulizam Mohd Hashim, Corporal Azman Ampong, Lance Corporal Tarmizi Hashim and Lance Corporal Mohd Qaiyum Aiqal Zolkifli, who were injured in gunfights with the intruders.

Meanwhile Bernama quoted Najib as saying that injured members of the security forces in Ops Daulat would each be offered to purchase 50,000 units of Bank Rakyat shares.

He said Bank Rakyat had agreed to offer shares worth RM100,000 to each family affected by the Lahad Datu intrusion. With the dividends paid out by Bank Rakyat at 15 per cent per annum and the bonus, each family will receive 15,000 units per annum or RM1,250 a month.

Najib also said Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia had given out RM1.5 million worth of aid to the Felda Sahabat land scheme settlers. Yayasan 1MDB also, he added, has allocated RM2 million to assist 26 families who lost their homes.

At the event, the Kelab Putera 1Malaysia also gave 9,100 ration packs to be distributed to members of the security forces, Rela and Civil Defence Department.

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