

GE13: PM highlights importance of peace and security
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KUANTAN: The Government will not be able to bring development to the country if peace and security are under threat, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

The Prime Minister said investors would stay away, the value of the stock market would drop while all development plans would not become a reality.

"Peace and security are the most important elements for a nation's success. Malaysia will not be where she is today without the willingness of a group of citizens who put their lives on the line.

"At the same time, other citizens must give their full support and appreciate their sacrifices," he said in his speech while launching the Military Community Volunteering Day at the Kuantan air force base here yesterday.

Thirty-two armed forces installations nationwide opened their doors for public viewing for the first time as part of the national Blue Ocean strategy.

Najib, who is Pekan MP, said the pioneer initiative was to foster a closer rapport between security personnel, comprising army, navy and air force, and the people.

"For many years, our security forces were just undergoing internal military exercises and not exposed to any serious threat. The recent intrusion in Lahad Datu reminded us not to take peace and security for granted," he said.

Najib hit out at certain parties which claimed the intrusion was staged by the Government, causing the morale of the security forces to be affected.

He said the Government valued their sacrifices in protecting the sovereignty of the country and would continue to offer them support in terms of logistics and equipment.

"We hope they will continue in their struggles to maintain peace and security for the sake of all citizens and future generations.

"Today's programme is a good opportunity for the people to express their heartfelt gratitude and for security personnel to showcase their capabilities," he said, adding that the theme "Armed Forces and the People are Forever Together" was precise and apt.

Earlier, Najib arrived at the air base aboard a new military helicopter the Eurocopter EC725 before joining the public to witness several demonstrations, including a hostage rescue and an army warfare.

Armed Forces chief Jen Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin pledged to continue carrying out duties and responsibilities entrusted to the armed forces in protecting the country from security threats.

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