

**Attack on Pulau Mabul an act of contempt for Najib, says DAP
Malaysian Insider
July 13, 2014
BY MUZLIZA MUSTAFA**

The latest shooting incident on Pulau Mabul in Sabah by unidentified gunmen last night has exposed Putrajaya's failure to ensure the safety and security of not only civilians but also members of enforcement bodies, said DAP.

Its secretary-general, Lim Guan Eng, likened the incident to throwing a shoe at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who had arrived in Sabah for an official visit earlier yesterday.

"This is utter contempt and disrespect towards the Barisan Nasional government and Najib," said Guan Eng today.

The ambush at 11.30pm left a policeman dead. The gunmen may also have kidnapped another following the ambush on the island off Semporna.

"Najib went there to talk about the restructuring of Esscom (the Eastern Sabah Security Command) and this thing happened. Terrorists have no fear of Esscom. It is a complete waste," Guan Eng said.

Extending his condolences to the family of the dead marine police, the Penang chief minister said he was not blaming the police for what happened but the leaders and Putrajaya.

"Even policemen could not protect themselves, how do you expect them to protect civilians?"

He said the government had failed in delivering its basic duty of ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

He said there was a need for a total overhaul of the security system in Sabah, adding that the restructuring of Esscom had failed to improve the safety and security in the state.

"I would not blame other countries if they advised their citizens not to visit Sabah. This incident will affect other states as well. Foreign tourists may be scared to even visit Penang.

"As a DAP leader I would advise Malaysians to stay away from the coastal area where such incidents have occurred. This is human lives we are talking about," said Guan Eng.

He said even Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz had commented on the situation in Sabah.

"He said kidnapping incidents in Sabah have negatively impacted the tourism sector worse than the case of the missing flight MH370."

Nazri had said last month that the kidnapping incidents had affected the number of tourist arrivals from China.

He had said that from April this year to 2015, tourist arrivals to Malaysia are expected to drop and 30,000 potential tourists from China are expected to cancel or postpone their visits here.

As such, Nazri had said that all quarters, including the Sabah government and the home ministry, should work closely to restore public confidence, especially among foreign tourists, and to show that Sabah is a safe place to visit.

"Even Nazri has said this. The latest incident would make things worse," said Guan Eng.

He also took a swipe at Home Minister Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi, saying he should admit that he had failed in his duty.

"What more has he to say?" asked Guan Eng.

The latest intrusion comes on the day Najib announced that several additional measures would be implemented to further strengthen Esscom on top of the recent administrative restructuring.

The measures, he had said, would include deploying Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Berhad's (MISC) container freighter, the MT Bunga Mas Lima, to Sabah, where it will serve as a "mother ship" for maritime assets and personnel near the Philippines border.

Reports quoting Najib had said the vessel would be a forward operational base for intercepting cross-border criminals trying to flee to neighbouring countries after committing crimes in the state.

Additionally, Najib added, two Petronas platforms were currently being modified and would be set up by year-end as the last line of defence between the Lahad Datu and Semporna waters.

The platforms will be equipped with modern radar that would enable the security forces to detect movements, day and night, in the area, he explained.

Meanwhile, DAP adviser and Gelang Patang MP Lim Kit Siang said the kidnapping and rise in crime in Sabah were not only caused by external issues but also due to long-standing internal problems with illegal migrants in the state.

He also pushed for Putrajaya to make public the Royal Commission of Inquiry report on illegal immigrants in Sabah and said the government should not delay it any further.

"The recommendation by the commission would have an impact on the security of Sabah," he added.

Esscom covers 1,400km of the east coast of Sabah from Kudat to Tawau.

It was established in March 2013 by Najib following the Lahad Datu incursion by armed Sulu militants last year.

Its purpose is to strengthen maritime security in the eastern part of the state and to prevent terrorist activity in the waters off Sabah

On July 8, Najib had said Esscom would be split into two main components: the Security and Defence Management component, and the Enforcement and Public Action component.

Esscom's director of security and public order, Commissioner of Police Datuk Abd Rashid Harun will be appointed Esscom commander starting July 15, and will be in charge of the Security and Defence Management component.

However, since its formation Esscom has failed to stop a series of kidnappings on the islands off the coast of Sabah, drawing criticism from the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) party and opposition Pakatan Rakyat.

Kit Siang said Esscom was a "white elephant", while Kalabakan MP Datuk Seri Abdul Ghapur Salleh said Sabahans were fed-up and angry with the government's promises to boost Esscom. – July 13, 2014.

- See more at: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/attack-on-pulau-mabul-an-act-of-contempt-for-najib-says-dap#sthash.NqwDY78f.dpuf>

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