

**Better management of security resources needed in EssZone,
says Najib
Malaysian Insider
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The prime minister wants the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) to review how it manages and locates its resources, especially personnel, following the latest intrusion case yesterday.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak (pic) said the security system along the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (EssZone) needs to be more detailed so that it cannot be penetrated by enemies, Bernama reported today.

"Based on the latest intrusion on a holiday resort on Pulau Mabul, Semporna last night, it is clear that there are weaknesses in the location of personnel and security planning on the ground.

"I am asking Esscom to review their security system in detail, if there are not enough personnel, then the number has to be increased.

"For instance, in the incident at the resort, there were not enough personnel as the resort is big and this shows there are weaknesses in the location and planning of security on the ground," Bernama quoted him as saying.

Speaking to reporters after attending a briefing on Pahang development at Wisma Sri Pahang in Kuantan today, Najib was commenting on the latest intrusion in Semporna, Sabah yesterday, resulting in the death of a marine policeman and the disappearance of another, believed to have been kidnapped.

Najib suggested that the new Esscom commander would be responsible for the revamp of the security system, that is going to be more detailed with changes in the location of the security personnel.

According to Bernama, Najib described the threats which involved various groups from the southern Philippines as serious and wants police to investigate the parties responsible for the incident yesterday.

He also did not rule out the involvement of locals in yesterday's incident, as in those who may have helped the enemy detect the security forces and slip through security ranks during the raid.

"This is a serious threat and they have a lot of weapons and can ambush and get through our security.

"That is why they move during the night or at specific times because they get very detailed information about the movements of our forces, and this is a serious threat," Najib said, according to Bernama.

In the incident at 11.10pm yesterday, a Marine Operations Force personnel was killed while another has disappeared, believed to be kidnapped, when a security force team was ambushed by a group of eight armed men at a resort on Pulau Mabul, Semporna.

The policeman killed was Corporal Ab Rajah Jamuan, 32, while his colleague Constable Zakian Aleip, 26, is missing.

Najib in his twitter today also offered his condolences to the family of Cpl Ab Rajah and promised that the authorities would do their best to rescue Constable Zakian, Bernama reported.

The attack came as Najib arrived in Sabah for a state visit earlier in the day where he had announced a slew of security measures for the EssZone.

This, 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 "mother ship" for maritime assets and personnel near the Philippines border.

The prime minister also stated that the vessel would be a forward operational base for intercepting cross-border criminals trying to flee to a neighbouring country after committing crime in the state.

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. – July 13, 2014

- See more at: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/better-management-of-security-resources-needed-in-esszone-says-najib#sthash.n6fzUYgc.dpuf>

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