

**No Diversion Of Funds To Procure Government Jet – Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that no funds meant for the security of Sabah had been diverted or reduced to purchase a government jet.

"The security of Sabah has nothing to do with the purchase of an official jet," he said in the frequently-asked questions section of his blog, najibrazak.com in response to those questioning the purchase of the plane in the face of security issues in Sabah.

The prime minister said because the government cared for security, it established the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCom) to secure the boundaries of Sabah, deploying five battalions comprising police and military troops to secure eastern Sabah.

ESSCom, he said, ensured security for ESSZone, made up of 10 districts in eastern Sabah, namely Kudat, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Beluran, Sandakan, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Kunak, Semporna and Tawau.

Najib said although ESSCom had been able to prevent fresh intrusions, abductions remain an ongoing security threat.

"The situation remains complex due to the nature of the insurgency in the southern Philippines and Malaysia's vast maritime border.

"The government has increased patrols and operations across the region and we will continue to do so," he said.

Najib pointed out that abductions had been occurring for decades but not much had been done previously.

"As such, this was the security situation that I inherited and which the terrorists chose to exploit," he said, adding that the Lahad Datu raids by foreigners showed just how fragile the country's security could be.

The government, he said, was committed to preventing this from happening again.

"We're also forever indebted to all those who had sacrificed their lives in order to defend and protect our sovereignty," he added.

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