

**Government Will Continue To Look After Welfare Of ATM Members – Najib  
Bernama  
June 23, 2015**

PORT DICKSON, June 23 (Bernama) -- The government will continue to look after the welfare of members of the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) in all aspects because of their immense contributions, especially in safeguarding the security of the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said although the government might have to spend more in regards to this, it would be worth it.

If their welfare was taken care of, Najib noted, their morale would continue to be high in looking after the security of the country.

"To be a sovereign nation, one of the pre-conditions is to have a strong military with soldiers who are highly disciplined and of impeccable character.

"To have a military with these attributes will give us the confidence that we are in safe hands," he said at a breaking-of-the-fast event with ATM staff at the Army's Basic Training Centre here Tuesday.

He said, based on these factors, the government had always placed importance on the needs of the armed forces and provided a range of facilities to boost their morale.

Taking the example of the military housing problem, Najib said it was an unfinished agenda as there are still many soldiers who do not enjoy such facilities.

"At the Port Dickson Camp, another 800 housing units remain to be provided and at the Gemas Camp the situation was more critical until they were forced rent because of insufficient number of houses.

"This is an example where we can look after the welfare of military personnel because of their invaluable sacrifices which we cannot equate with money," he said.

Apart from the aspect of national security, he also drew attention to sacrifices made by them in saving lives during natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes.

"When there is an emergency, who is willing to take a helicopter to reach 10,000 feet almost to the peak of Mount Kinabalu unless it is the military personnel, if there is a flood disaster, where a 40-horsepower boat cannot go, who are willing to rescue the civilians but the military personnel," he said.

The prime minister also presented a donation for RM500,000 to the ATM Welfare Fund before performing the Isyak and Tarawih prayers at the RAMD Depot Mosque here.

Also present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Chief of Armed Forces General Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin.

About 3,000 members of the armed forces attended the event.

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