

**PM Wants Malbatt Forces To Maintain Excellent Role In Lebanon**  
**Bernama**  
**July 16, 2015**

PUTRAJAYA, July 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today proposed that Malaysian peacekeepers in Lebanon continue their tradition of excellence in maintaining their role as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

He said the tradition of sending the Malaysian battalion (Malbatt) to serve abroad as peacekeepers arose from the recognition and trust of the international community in the integrity of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

He said he was convinced that the peacekeepers serving in Lebanon would continue to do so with excellence.

Najib made these comments during a video conferencing with three Malaysian missions, in Beirut (Lebanon), Washington (the United States) and Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei Darussalam), from the prime minister's official residence at Seri Perdana here.

"The United Nations and countries hosting the peacekeepers, such as Bosnia Herzegovina, Timor Leste and Lebanon, have stated their satisfaction to the role of the MAF.

"Our peacekeepers have shown that we do not take sides and discharge our duty professionally. Congratulations in maintaining that excellence," he said when participating in the one-hour video conferencing session held in conjunction with the Aidilfitri.

Also present during the session were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor; Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman; Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin.

In Beirut, those who joined the session were Malaysian Ambassador to Lebanon T. Balachandran; Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin and several of the Malbatt personnel based in Lebanon.

Zulkifeli gave the prime minister the assurance that MAF personnel would maintain their excellence to keep Malaysia's flag flying high in the international arena.

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