

**Continuation of Peace Process between GPH, MILF Is Important - PM Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the continuation of the peace process between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is important to Malaysia and the region because of the rising threat of Daesh militant group.

The prime minister said several Malaysian nationals were known to have joined Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) factions that had pledged their allegiance to Daesh group.

"The ASG is a common threat to the region due to its involvement in kidnap-for-ransom activities.

"There are also linkages between ASG and other terrorist organisations where there are movements in term of funds and weapons," said Najib in his speech during the relaunching of The Implementing Phase of the Mindanao Peace Agreement between The Government of Philippines and the MILF here today.

Najib's text of speech was delivered by Deputy Minister of Defence Datuk Seri Mohd Johari Baharom, who also launched the event.

Najib said peace in Mindanao would be the first step in bringing stability and development to the area and hence, would help deter the radicalisation of people.

"The success of the peace process would not only bring peace and stability to Bangsamoro in Mindanao, but will also insulate Southeast Asia from threats by militants," he said.

Najib said Malaysia remains committed to support the peace process and confident that the conflicting parties would also remain committed to find a just and lasting peace for the Bangsamoro.

"I will reiterate the conviction that both the GPH and the MILF must remain faithful to the peace process, since it is practical choice to resolve Bangsamoro issue," he said.

Also present at the event were Philippines Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, MILF Chairman AlHaj Murad Ebrahim, Facilitator of the Peace Process Tengku

Datuk Ab Ghaffar Tengku Mohamed and representatives of both parties including Philippine Congress House Speaker, Senate president, government officials, and MILF members.

The GPH and the MILF will be seating together over the weekend to discuss the roadmap in the implementation of the peace process between the two parties.

This is a follow-up on the Declaration of Continuity of the Partnership between GPH and MILF in Bangsamoro Peace Process signed on last May 30, here.

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