

Najib's Visit Proves Govt Commitment On Welfare Of Soldiers

SEREMBAN, April 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's visit to the Sendayan Air Base, near here yesterday proved the strong government commitment in ensuring that priority continues to be given to the welfare of members of the security forces.

During his visit which lasted one-and-a-half hours, Najib who was accompanied by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Air Force Chief, General Datuk Seri Affendi Buang, had a close look at the developments going on around the air base.

The hot weather, however, did not hinder the Prime Minister from looking at the development achieved by the air base, which is now 80 per cent completed and expected to begin operations early next year.

Hishammuddin, in his media conference yesterday, said the discussions with the end-users namely the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) personnel found that they generally described the air base as a 'dream base'.

He added that the construction of the Sendayan Air Base was in line with the RMAF transformation which also took into consideration the comfort and welfare of the staff.

Hishammuddin said what was being done currently was for the welfare of the country's security forces and he, as the Defence Minister, took pride in what was being planned by the government.

Senior lecturer of the Research Centre on History, Politics and Security, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Prof Madya Datuk Dr Samsul Adabi Mamat said the construction of the Sendayan Air Base would also enable the air defence system to be improved and strengthened from time to time.

"In moving toward becoming a developed nation, it is not only rapid development that is needed but also the country's assets and defence facilities must be enhanced in line with the development flow.

"The construction of the Sendayan Air Base would also enable the development in the surrounding areas to spill over and at the same time boost the economy in the area while at the Kuala Lumpur Air Base, it is more strategic to the development that could stimulate national economic growth," he told Bernama, here today.

In this matter, he said, it clearly proved that the welfare of the country's defence personnel was always in the radar of the government.

The Sendayan Air Base development project, which was initiated in 2013, was planned to become a professional training centre to train officers and personnel in the fields of logistics, administration and management.

The Sendayan Air Base measuring 303.5 hectares would also become the country's largest professional training centre for RMAF officers and personnel and would house several RMAF training centres throughout the country.

The air base located 15 kilometres from here, is equipped with a sports complex, golf course (nine holes), equestrian club, swimming pool, Islamic Centre and residential quarters.

The Sendayan Air Base is one of the eight locations in the restructuring of the Kuala Lumpur Air Base besides the Subang Air Base, Gong Kedak, Ipoh and Butterworth, Kuantan and the 31st Artillery Regiment, Kajang and the Royal Malaysia Police Subang.

Hishammuddin meanwhile said the success in building the Sendayan Air Base was a benchmark in the country's armed forces and could thus convince the other two services namely the Royal Malaysian Army and the Royal Malaysian Navy that the government had plans for them too.

"But we have to do it in phases," he added.

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