

Do not take threat of terrorism lightly - Muhyiddin

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia must learn from the recent attacks on the two mosques in New Zealand and not take lightly the threat of terrorism, especially from extremists, said Home Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said this was because attacks by terrorist or extremist groups can happen anywhere.

“These attacks must be stopped from happening as they threaten lives and national security. It is not only the Daesh; there are extremist elements which do not care about national interests and the people ... they will do anything that can be a threat to security.

“This is a lesson for us. New Zealand is considered one of the safest countries, but the unexpected happened and many lives were lost,” he told reporters after a meeting with ‘The Cops’ football team at the Police Training Centre (Pulapol) here today.

Earlier, Muhyiddin attended the 212th Police Day celebration which was launched by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the Royal Malaysia Police, which was entrusted to prevent and tackle terrorist activities in the country, had carried out their duties well through several early intelligence measures and firm action taken in accordance with existing laws.

“With information, firm action is taken against such groups to make sure their influence does not spread and have a negative effect on the country,” he said.

Commenting on the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC), Muhyiddin said it has not been finalised even though, in principle, a decision has been made by the government.

“My opinion is that there should be a process of engagement with the authorities concerned, whether it is the police or other enforcement agencies. The feedback that I got was that many people do not understand the objectives and how it can be implemented,” he said.

At a brief meeting with the ‘The Cops’, which is competing in the Malaysian League, Muhyiddin said the team must improve itself to be like the police rugby team which came out tops in the Malaysia Rugby League 2019.

Meanwhile, Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said he felt indebted to all police officers and personnel for their sacrifice and dedication in fighting crime, ensuring public order and protecting the people and nation.

In a statement issued in conjunction with Police Day, Azmin said that in the globalised world of today, the country is exposed to international crimes like terrorism, violence and financial crimes which increasingly challenge the capabilities, professionalism and preparedness of the police and other security forces.

He said that although the people choose and practise democracy, national security cannot be taken lightly.

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