

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 36TH ASEANAPOL CONFERENCE 2016

By : YAB. DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB BIN TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK, PERDANA
MENTERI MALAYSIA

Venue : Marriot Hotel, Putrajaya

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Bismillahirrahmanirahim,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Vary Good Morning.

YAB Dato' Sri Dr Ahmad Zahid Bin Hamidi

Deputy Prime Minister Of Malaysia And The Home Minister

The Honourable

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Khalid Bin Abu Bakar

Inspector General Of Royal Malaysia Police

And Chairman For The 36th Aseanapol Conference 2016

Heads Of Delegations

Members

Participant Of The 36th Aseanapol Conference 2016

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies And Gentlemen,

1. Ever since it was established in 1981, the ASEANAPOL Conference has been one of the most important events for the police agencies of our ten nation association.
2. Chiefs of Police of ASEAN member countries gather every year to discuss the security issues affecting our region. And every year, we see ASEANAPOL growing and collaboration and cooperation being strengthened, reinforcing the framework in which we work together.
3. While it is for policy makers to provide the building blocks to make ASEAN a focal point for economic growth, it is through the collective efforts of ASEANAPOL that the region remains a safe environment for that growth to flourish.
4. For all your work in pursuing an ASEAN-centric security strategy, I thank everyone here present today and all those involved in ASEANAPOL who cannot be with us.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. The last time I addressed this forum was in May 2006. I then identified five challenges to combatting transnational crime and terrorist activities and addressed them to the ASEAN Chiefs of Police.
6. The first was to enhance cooperation beyond national boundaries in order to place a greater emphasis on information sharing.
7. That initiative constantly needs to be followed through with concrete actions, so that ASEANAPOL can continue to maintain a secure and peaceful

environment, and to be effective in dealing with the perpetrators of crime and violence.

8. The implementation of the electronic ASEANAPOL Database System, or e-ADS, is a significant milestone to that effect.

9. The second challenge was to have a unity of focus and purpose in building up regional law enforcement capabilities in our common fight against terrorism.

10. This necessitates intensifying training, consultation and the sharing of intelligence, and of our various experiences with armed groups and individuals who pose a direct challenge to us all and to the realisation of the ASEAN Vision 2020.

11. Third was the need to re-examine ASEANAPOL's strategy in supporting the ASEAN Security Community, or ASC - which is the guarantor of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Southeast Asia.

12. Fourth was the requirement to continue working with international agencies and specialised bodies of the United Nations, Interpol, Europol, and other similar organisations, in order to be as effective as possible in dealing with transnational crime and security threats.

13. And fifth was the war against drugs, which must take into account serious and relevant concerns about the ever rising cost of treatment and

rehabilitation of drug dependents, the imperative to prosecute drug peddlers and traffickers, and the opportunities and lives lost to crime.

14. These challenges will continue to determine how ASEANAPOL charts its way forward. These are our common concerns and they need to be addressed collectively.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. The latest spate of terror-related incidents around the world is proof that terrorism is, if anything, an even greater threat than it has been in the past.

16. Hardly a day goes by without news of yet another atrocity. Bombings and shootings that take innocent lives, kidnappings - of which there are too many in our regional waters - and the revival of barbarous acts that we thought were consigned to the history books. Instead, they have become shockingly commonplace once more.

17. In our region, Jakarta was hit in January, and I have said repeatedly that we are far from immune to this danger in Malaysia.

18. This is why the Government passed the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act or SOSMA, the Special Measures against Terrorism in Foreign Countries Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the National Security Council Act.

19. We were criticised for passing some of these laws. But my government will never apologize for placing the safety and security of the Malaysian people first. These laws were necessary, and other countries have since been following our lead.

20. These laws have aided the authorities in monitoring possible terrorists and Daesh sympathisers, and I offer my wholehearted thanks to our police and security forces who have successfully thwarted a number of attempted atrocities in the past.
21. Their work has been tireless, although often unsung due to the confidential nature of their operations.
22. They have earned, and they deserve, the gratitude of the nation.
23. Unfortunately, no precautions can ensure that terrorist acts never occur on Malaysian soil, and in the attack on the Movidia club in Puchong last month, Daesh managed to perpetrate its first outrage in our country. Although eight people were injured, we are thankful that no one was killed.
24. I can assure you that the Government will continue to put all measures necessary in place, and the security forces are on a heightened state of alert.
25. Daesh and its cruel, twisted ideology have no place in our peaceful, diverse, tolerant country - and nor in our region.
26. So as never before, now is the time for us to unite and play an even greater part alongside the world community in the global fight against terrorism.
27. This is one of the reasons we are here today - to enhance cooperation between our security agencies, and to share and analyse the best practices from our various initiatives in combatting violent extremism.

28. Here in Malaysia, we have initiated the establishment of the Regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communications Centre, which will synchronise efforts in ASEAN and beyond.
29. It is vital that this centre utilises the studies that illustrate why there is nothing at all “Islamic” about the state that shamefully declares itself as such.
30. It is also vital that all authorities - our muftis, our media commissions, our tech-savvy young people for whom social media is an integral part of their daily lives - ensure that the message and its narrative which the centre puts out is solid, persuasive and real.
31. Digital media is the new frontier on which much of this war must be fought. It is a new battle ground. Its centrality to our efforts cannot be overestimated and we must seize the opportunity to convince the world that Muslims have nothing to do with the ideology of hatred and destruction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

32. In conclusion, I hope this conference will serve as a useful platform for the sharing of both expertise and experience, in all aspects of our common security. I welcome your gathering here in Kuala Lumpur.
33. I know that you will continue to be both our sword and our shield in protecting our 625 million ASEAN citizens. I wish you every success in your discussions, and do enjoy your time in Malaysia.

Thank you.

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