



Press
RELEASE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE MALAYSIA

MOD.100/2/1/2 JLD 3 () 07/10

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE'S PLENARY ADDRESS AT THE 8TH XIANGSHAN
FORUM, 25th OCTOBER 2018**

Beijing – The Minister of Defence YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Sabu delivered the plenary address titled “Global Terrorism: Threats & Countermeasures” during the 2nd Plenary Session of the 8th Xiangshan Forum hosted by the Chinese Association for Military Science and the China Institute of International Strategic Studies at Beijing International Convention Centre today. Among others he mentioned:

- 1) The contemporary trends in global terrorism, the impediments to combatting those threats, and Malaysia’s experiences and efforts towards establishing a united front in the fight against terror.
- 2) Although today’s terrorists do not differ significantly in terms of violent expression and combative nature, their intentions and objective have changed. Where Al-Qaeda was merely a dedicated propaganda effort to draw the world’s attention, ISIS / Daesh are engaged in a state-building exercise to control territory, practise governance, and enforce law and order. Additionally, the highly decentralized nature of Daesh makes them more adept at avoiding complete destruction.
- 3) The international system has in turn reverted to its pre-9/11 ways, devolving to inter-state competition and regional conflicts rather than being focused on a common threat. Meanwhile, the trans-border nature of terror, enabled by social media and the internet, makes it much easier for terror groups to recruit members, gather support and sympathy, as well as accumulate funds from anywhere in the world. Where the world is divided, the terrorists are linked and united.
- 4) In the efforts against terrorism, Malaysia has been actively engaged in multilateral platforms to foster an understanding of a common strategy. The world must not defeat terrorism solely through hard power policies; soft power applications in the form of good governance, practical diplomacy, and civil participation must complement military

actions in order to eliminate the root causes of terrorist appeal: injustice, unfairness, and inequality. We must win hearts and minds, not just gun fights.

-End-

“PERTAHANAN NEGARA TANGGUNGJAWAB BERSAMA”

**KUALA LUMPUR
20 Oktober 2018**