



*Siaran*  
**AKHBAR**  
KEMENTERIAN PERTAHANAN MALAYSIA

MOD.100/2/1/2 JLD 2 ( ) 08/09

**BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE MALAYSIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND  
THE US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

Washington DC – The Defence Minister, YB Mohamad Sabu recently met with the US Secretary of Defence, His Excellency James Norman Mattis at the Pentagon, Washington DC to discuss several bilateral issues concerning both nations. These issues include peace and stability in the South China, the threat posed by ISIS and radical terrorist thoughts, as well as the confluence of terror and the escalating humanitarian crisis in Myanmar due to its policy of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya ethnic group.

On the issue of the continued peace and stability in the South China Sea region, the Minister has reiterated Malaysia's non-alignment principle in foreign affairs. On the issues of terrorism and ISIS, the two defence leaders also discussed strategies in combating radicalization.

Specifically on the issue of the Rohingya minority group, the Minister has stressed to his counterpart the importance of United States actions on the issue. The crisis has escalated beyond Myanmar's borders and is no longer solely a domestic affair for that country. Furthermore, the systematic oppression of the Rohingya will in turn make them susceptible to radical ideas such as Daesh; such an outcome would be a major setback in the fight against terrorism in the region.

He was escorted to these meetings by the Chief of the Defence Forces, General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Zulkifli bin Haji Zainal Abidin, and several senior aides from the Ministry of Defence.

This bilateral meeting with the Secretary of Defence is part of the Minister's broader agenda in the United States that lasts from the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. Following this, the Minister will attend a High Level Meeting with the Action for Peacekeeping initiative in New York, as well as escort the Prime Minister, YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir, to the 73<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly which begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September until the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. The Minister's bilateral meeting with the Secretary of Defence at the Pentagon is a follow up to their previous meeting in Singapore in June 2018, during this year's Shangri-La Dialogue.

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**"PERTAHANAN NEGARA TANGGUNGJAWAB BERSAMA"**

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**KUALA LUMPUR**  
**25 September 2018**