

Najib's UK visit begins today
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak will begin an official visit to the United Kingdom, at the invitation of Prime Minister David Cameron, beginning today and continuing through July 15.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur today, said the visit was significant as it reflects the long-standing and strong historical links between the two countries.

"In line with Malaysia's objective of becoming a high-income country, this visit could become a catalyst in expanding the existing network of cooperation and enable both countries to work together in facing new global challenges," the statement said.

It will be the first official visit by Najib to the United Kingdom since taking over the country's leadership in April 2009.

During the visit, Najib will inspect a guard of honour at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before his luncheon meeting with Cameron.

The statement said both occasions are significant for Kuala Lumpur-London relations since such protocol arrangements were normally not accorded for visits by heads of government.

"The two prime ministers will have the opportunity to chart a new direction of bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various fields.

"The meeting is expected to infuse a fresh dynamism into the multi-faceted and multi-dimensional relationship between the two countries," the statement said.

Najib is also expected to meet with representatives of the British business community and leading financial institutions in the United Kingdom during scheduled roundtable sessions with the captains of industry and chairmen and CEOs of the capital market.

He will also deliver a keynote address at the Global Investment Forum.

Additionally, the prime minister will witness the signing of several memoranda of understanding covering various fields, including initiatives to address transnational crime as well as railway cooperation, and education.

Najib will also have an audience with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

During the visit, Najib will be accompanied by his wife Rosmah Mansor, and Foreign Minister Anifah Aman, Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamed and Defence Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

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