

PM preaches NEM to UK
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The premier told UK businessmen that the NEM will remove barriers for investment and competition.

Four-day visit

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and his British counterpart, David Cameron held talks at No 10 Downing Street here Thursday as the two historically linked countries moved to bring bilateral relations a notch higher.

The meeting was held in conjunction with Najib's four-day official visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of Cameron.

The two leaders held talks soon after Najib's arrival at the famed address in central London on a rather chilly day despite summer being in full swing.

Najib was greeted warmly by Cameron as they shook hands and posed for photographers and videographers before moving inside for their tete-a-tete followed by a luncheon hosted by the British prime minister.

Earlier, Najib was met on arrival at the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office by UK's secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth Affairs William Hague, before walking a short distance to 10 Downing Street.

PM, wife meets Queen

Prior to that, Najib was joined by his wife Rosmah Mansor during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the British monarch.

During the leaders meeting, Malaysia and the UK also signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at curbing transborder crimes.

Malaysia was represented Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein while the UK by its Home Secretary Teresa May.

The Malaysian leader also attended a high tea hosted by Hague.

The MoU on combating transnational crime inked today provides strategic opportunities for cooperation in areas of international terrorism; organised crime; human trafficking and smuggling of migrants; and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

The pact also covers money laundering and terrorism financing; smuggling of illicit goods; forgery; counterfeiting crimes; kidnapping and hostage taking; cyber crimes; and other fields related to transnational crime.

NEM will bring 'reac action'

The packed day-three of Najib's visit also saw him attending a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Michael Bear.

His speech at the reception held at Mansion House focused, among others, on Malaysia's economic landscape, including its prominent position in the field of Islamic finance.

The prime minister said open, transparent and even-handed economic stewardship had always been the

hallmark in Malaysia.

"That's what matters to business, that's what matters to me, and that's why I've put in place a number of plans to map the nation's path through the next decade and to build the momentum for growth," he said.

Najib said that the New Economic Model would deliver real action to raise the role of the private sector and make Malaysia an even more attractive proposition for global investors.

According to him, it would remove barriers to investment and enhance incentives, increase competition and improve the business environment as well as rebalance the roles of the public and private sectors.

PM promise 'bold and sweeping' reforms

Najib noted that Malaysia's regulatory framework was very attractive to foreign corporate seeking to issue sukuk (Islamic bonds) out of Malaysia, and this approach was not just confined to Islamic finance.

"I'm determined to do everything I can to make it easier for investors to get involved in all of the investment opportunities we have to offer - enhancing the delivery of government services, sweeping away red tape and catalysing bold, far-reaching reforms," was his pledge.

"So, I urge you, come to our country. See for yourself in bricks and mortar and steel and glass, how the government's programmes and policies are transforming Malaysia day by day," he added.

Najib also said that efforts by the coalition government in Britain to facilitate the range and choice of Islamic financial instruments on offer, and to create a regulatory regime in which the industry could thrive, should be applauded.

This morning, the prime minister attended a roundtable meeting with representatives from UK rail companies during a visit to St Pancras International railway station.

It is home to the Eurostar for services to Brussels and Paris from London.

The UK has expressed interest in taking part in the development of urban rail systems in Malaysia.

- Bernama