

## **'Gov't always holds true to Islamic principles'**

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**By Aidila Razak**

The government has always stayed true to maqasid syariah (the objectives of Islam) in administrating the country, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said today.

This meant, he said, that the government always endeavoured to protect the sanctity of Islam.

"This is the best way to govern a nation. We meet Islamic principles and that of maqasid syariah.

"This principle means caring for Islam in terms of its sanctity, position, in terms of faith, morals, administration, etc, so that Islam can be practised perfectly," Najib said.

The prime minister's statement comes as the debate on the hudud persists, with opposition party PAS questioning the Umno-led government's Islamic credentials for refusing to implement hudud.

Najib had made his statement today before presenting 400 imams and Village Security and Development Committee members with robes and stipend of US\$300 (RM932.40) each to perform their haj in October.

Sponsored by 1MDB, Tabung Haji

The group's trip is sponsored by fully government-owned 1Malaysia Development Bhd Foundation and Tabung Haji, which are sponsoring RM4 million and RM2 million each.

"1MDB is a body that is growing fast, so when there is profit, we use it for noble causes like assisting people to perform the haj," Najib said.

This was cause to be grateful as the 400 recipients not only got monetary assistance but they were also able to jump the long queue for the haj, which goes back to as far as 30 years for new registrants.

"This is the reward for unity and support for the government's transformation," he said, adding that the imam and village chiefs were playing an important role in society.

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