

PM advises pilgrims to keep away from negative elements

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today advised Malaysians going on the pilgrimage to keep away from negative elements out to tarnish Malaysia's image.

He said the pilgrims should also adhere to all the regulations and laws of the Saudi Arabian government during their pilgrimage.

"The pilgrims should make use of the opportunity well and avoid wasting time indulging in activities that do not benefit them," he said when seeing off the sixth batch of 279 pilgrims, scheduled to leave today, at the Tabung Haji Complex in Kelana Jaya.

Najib's wife Rosmah Mansor, Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Malaysia Fahad Abdullah Hamad Al-Rashid, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Jamil Khir Baharom, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki and Tabung Haji chairperson Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim were also present.

The prime minister said the pilgrims should spend their time in undertaking their obligations in the Holy Land.

Najib said he hoped that Muslims in Malaysia would remain united without looking at differences that could divide them and jeopardise harmony among the multiracial population of the country.

This year, 22,320 Malaysians are scheduled to perform the pilgrimage. They will be taken to the Holy Land in 64 flights of Malaysia Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

The last flight from Malaysia to the Holy Land will depart on Sept 16.

All the pilgrims are scheduled to return to Malaysia between Sept 29 and Oct 27.

- Bernama

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