

UN maiden speech got positive feedback, says Najib
Malaysianmirror.com
29 September 2010

NEW YORK - Najib Abdul Razak said on Tuesday his call for a "Global Movement of the Moderates" was aimed at rallying leaders and intellectuals of the Islamic world to come forward and state their stand openly and firmly against extremism.

The prime minister said the proposal, which he spelled out in his maiden speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday, had received positive response, enhancing Malaysia's profile particularly in the West.

The important thing was to encourage the moderates to come out in the open to state their stand, he told a news conference with the Malaysian media at the end of his six-day visit here.

"This will be the starting point for what can be called a movement; not something that is planned but something which is spontaneous so that moderation in Islam will become the core principles in their points of view," he said.

It was also hoped, said Najib, that it would encourage discussions towards finding solutions to international conflicts like the one in West Asia.

The prime minister said he was told that his views received positive feedback among officials of United States President Barack Obama's administration.

He said the American society now understand better that Malaysia is a moderate and progressive Islamic country, capable of giving constructive views to the world, especially in dealing with the upswing in Islamophobia of late.

Najib said it would be ideal if the idea could be followed up upon by think tanks and inter-faith centres towards nurturing the views of the moderates.

He cautioned however that Malaysia could not do it alone and would need the cooperations of other countries.

On his tight schedule here, Najib said he was happy that he had managed to enhance Malaysia's profiles among influential groups in the US including the Council on Foreign Relations.

Apart from attending the meeting of Asean leaders with President Obama, Najib also visited the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) where he proposed that a Malaysia Day be held at the world's largest bourse to encourage investments between Malaysia and the US.

He said that the Malaysia Day at the NYSE would be held in spring.

While here, the prime minister was interviewed by the New York Times and Wall Street Journal newspapers as well as by major television stations such as Bloomberg Television, CNBC and

CNN.

Najib also met New York Academy of Sciences President Ellis Rubinstein and proposed the setting up of the International Science Advisory Council to help enhance Malaysia's capability in science and technology.

The prime minister also met world leaders among them UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III apart from industry leaders like Ace Group Chief Executive Officer Evan Greenberg and Wikipedia Founder Jimmy Wales.

Although satisfied with the meetings, Najib said follow up actions were crucial especially on the proposal to set up the Johns Hopkins medical school in Serdang, Selangor and the proposal to get American volunteers to teach English in Asean countries.

Najib and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor left New York for home, Tuesday night. - Bernama

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/49629>