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Najib's tweets get attention at Davos gathering

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KUALA LUMPUR: Even as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was affirming Malaysia's commitment to lasting peace in the Middle East on the heels of his visit to Gaza and Cairo, he was making waves 3,000km away in Davos, Switzerland.

Najib's tweets and Facebook posts while in war-torn Gaza garnered massive hits and re-tweets as he flew for the World Economic Forum.

At Kongress Zentrum centre's Davos Lounge, a large screen placed Najib in number one spot among leaders whose tweets were most reproduced.

Najib's postings on his trip to Gaza were re-tweeted 2,852 times, in under five hours. This figure was only by those who "follow" him directly on the micro-blogging site.

While Najib, who is also finance minister is the most re-tweeted leader at WEF, *The Huffington Post* media group president and editor-in-chief Arianna Huffington came in second. Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti was in fifth place with 97 re-tweets. All forum participants' Twitter accounts are monitored by WEF.

The WEF annual meeting will be held for five days from today.

Najib is the first Malaysian prime minister to step foot in war-ravaged Gaza. During his one-day humanitarian trip to Gaza, he had updated his twitter four times.

The first read — "Sy tlh lawat Gaza & disambut PM Ismail Haniyeh. Sempat jg kunjungi tapak projek sekolah Msia. Hrp lawatan ini dpt eratkan silaturahmi 2 negara"

(I visited Gaza and received a warm welcome from Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh. I also had the opportunity to visit a school site that would be built by Malaysia. I hope this visit brings Palestine and Malaysia closer.)

He later tweeted a picture of him and Ismail Haniyeh and described his humanitarian visit to Gaza as smooth, safe and successful.

Najib also uploaded the picture on his Facebook page, which garnered almost 18,000 "likes". The picture was shared 600 times.

Najib reproduced this posting on his Facebook "status", which prompted 2,041 comments.

His third tweet announced his departure from Gaza, which he described as a historical visit.


"Saya baru keluar dari Gaza. Lawatan bersejarah yang memberi sokongan kpd Gaza dan rakyat Palestine. Alhamdulillah lawatan berjaya"

(I just left Gaza. It was a historic visit which supports Gaza and the people of Palestine. Thank God the visit was a success)


In his fourth tweet, Najib said he

Netizens' response to prime minister's visit to Gaza

FACEBOOK LIKES:
17,626

 You like this.

PICTURES
 Share **683**

FACEBOOK COMMENTS
 **2,142**

 RETWEETS 

 **No. 1**
2,852

Datuk Seri Najib Razak

had stressed on the importance of unity between Fatah and Hamas, in his speeches there.

Among those who re-tweeted his postings and commented in his Facebook page, were social groups, non-governmental organisations, celebrities and the average Joe.

A user, Ismael Abu Jarad, believed to be from Gaza and a student at Universiti Sains Malaysia, said he wished he was back home to receive the prime minister.

"Gaza has been honoured to have you there dear Prime Minister. I do wish I was there to receive you ... I do wish the day will come when you land in Gaza international airport."

An Amy Chai voiced her confidence in Najib's leadership and efforts to strengthen bilateral relationships. "God bless you and family always Najib. May God guide you in leading our 1Malaysia in ONE FAMILY."