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King Abdullah a visionary leader, says Najib

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DAVOS: The late King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz was a visionary leader and earned the love and respect of his fellow countrymen and the *ummah*, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said when King Abdullah was ruling Saudi Arabia, ties between Malaysia and the kingdom progressed at a rapid pace.

"This can be seen through the enhanced cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

"The facilities extended to Malaysians for performing the Haj pilgrimage is something very much appreciated by the Malaysian Government," he told Malaysian journalists here before heading to Zurich to fly to Riyadh to attend the late king's funeral.

Najib, who is here to attend the World Economic Forum, has cancelled all his programmes in Davos to attend the funeral.

"On behalf of His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Government of Malaysia and all Malaysians, I wish to extend my condolences to the family of King Abdullah," he said.

Najib and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor are scheduled to leave for Riyadh on a special aircraft from the Zurich International Airport.

The Saudi Arabian monarch died yesterday at the age of 90.

Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz has been named the new king.

The new king then quickly moved to appoint younger men as his heirs, settling the succession for years to come by naming his youngest half-brother Moqren as Crown Prince and nephew Mohammed Nayef as Deputy Crown Prince.
Agencies