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Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** delivering a speech at the Malaysian pavilion at the Expo Milano 2015 in Milan, Italy, yesterday. Pic by Zaharah Othman

PM: Nation's stability gets US nod

HIGH MARKS: Malaysia doing the right things with the right policies, American business execs tell Najib



MUSTAPHA KAMIL

NEW YORK

THE American business community wants people-to-people engagements with its Malaysian counterpart expanded so that it can have a true picture of what is happening.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak told a news conference here that the business executives he met

said despite the "noises" they had heard, Malaysia was doing the right things with the right policies.

Najib was here to attend the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He left for Milan, Italy, to attend the Expo Milano 2015 immediately after the news conference and after earlier delivering a speech at the assembly.

Najib said during breakfast and luncheon meetings with the United States business community and fund managers, he was informed that American businesses knew how to sift through voluminous reports, from both official as well as other, including online, sources, on Malaysia to get to the facts that would help them in making invest-

ment decisions.

The American business community gave high marks for certainty elements in doing business in Malaysia.

"They appreciate the stability in Malaysia and certainties in policies, and the fact that we are a business-friendly government," said Najib.

The American administration, meanwhile, increasingly sees Malaysia as a moderate Islamic nation that shares the world's hatred towards violence and any form of extremism, particularly acts committed by the Islamic State (IS).

Najib said the US administration wanted to expand trade and business relations further, adding that it also wanted Malaysia's firm com-

mitment to the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Najib said Malaysia was still studying the TPP, and while the country risked being left behind by other Pacific Rim nations by not participating, there were domestic issues that must be resolved first.

In his meeting with partners involved in investigating the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 last year, Najib said they were exploring other options to bring those responsible for the shootdown to justice, after an earlier effort to push for a UN tribunal was vetoed by Russia.

"I met the Dutch prime minister, Ukraine's president, the Belgian prime minister and the Australian deputy prime minister. We dis-

cussed alternative options to seek justice for this incident."

He said a technical report on the incident would be released on Oct 13, and based on the report, a criminal investigation may be launched.

Najib summed up his working visit here as having met its objectives.

He had called on world leaders to collaborate in fighting IS, and leaders of Islamic nations to counter IS propaganda by disseminating the correct information on Islam. He told the business community here that the situation in Malaysia was not as bad as what his political foes had made it out to be, and his administration would continue to govern according to the mandate given to it in the last general election.

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