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PM promises better life for immigrants

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BRIGHT FUTURE:
2 Syrian families meet Najib on sidelines of Umno general assembly

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday met with the first group of eight Syrian immigrants from two families who arrived in the country.

The 15-minute meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre here, in conjunction with the Umno general assembly, was attended by the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Deputy Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

The families' representative, Mohamed Ibrahim, 29, said they appreciated the concern of the Malaysian government for the welfare of the Syrian people affected by the conflict there.

At the meeting, he said Najib, who is also Umno president, promised that their life in this country would be better and offered them the opportunity to continue their studies and the government's willingness to give them work visas.

"He said (the government) would make it more comfortable for us here, that we should not be scared and that a bright future was awaiting for us here," he told reporters after the meeting.

The arrival of the family at 4.50pm yesterday from Istanbul, Turkey was made possible by the initiative of Mohamed and his friend, Ali Abdul Naser, who had made a personal application to the Malaysian government via the Special Task Force implementing the entry of Syrians into the country.

Mohamed, who has been living in this country for four years and works as a barber in Bangsar, here, said he was grateful that his family could also come here after their home in Idlib, Syria, was destroyed in the war.

"I like Malaysia because the people always smile, they have clean hearts and always help each other," he said, adding that he was happy that Malaysia would open its doors to more Syrian immigrants.

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