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PM: Federal Govt will give Kulim airport plan due consideration

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday gave his assurance that the Federal Government will give due consideration to the construction of Kulim International Airport (KXP), as proposed by the Kedah government.

He reiterated his commitment to help the state government transform Kedah, saying KXP would be evaluated by the Federal Government.

"Agencies are preparing a report on KXP, to be tabled to the cabinet for evaluation. *Inshaallah*, the proposal may get approved," Najib said at the opening of the two-day 2015 Kedah Umno Convention here.

Najib, who is also Umno president, was responding to Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, who, in his welcoming speech, expressed hope that the Federal Gov-

ernment would expedite the approval of KXP.

Najib said the Federal Government would also look into the state government's request to convert its loan to federal grants.

Mukhriz said KXP was aimed at boosting the economy, and creating jobs for people in the state and northern region.

He said he was confident that a

vibrant economy and transparent state government would sustain support for Barisan Nasional.

Earlier, Najib, who is also Malaysian Pondok Development Foundation patron, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the foundation and Kolej Universiti Insaniah (Kuin).

Kuin was represented by its rector,

Professor Datuk Mohd Yusof Kasim, while the foundation was represented by its executive chairman, Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim.

Under the MoU, Kuin will provide expertise and staff to carry out research with the foundation to empower the *pondok* institution.

Najib also launched Kuin's Pondok Research Centre, with Mashitah being named its first director.