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## Signing of community declaration stirs Najib's emotions

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was all smiles last night as he listed some of the accomplishments that the 27th Asean Summit had achieved for Malaysia.

However, one particular moment moved him — when he inked his signature on the Asean Community declaration. The prime minister was seen struggling to contain his emotions.

"I think this is a very special summit. A summit that (is) so emotional and sentimental for me personally.

"I must share (with you about this). When the Asean Community document was presented, I felt emotional (as) my late father had signed the Bangkok Declaration in 1967.

"I never imagined I would be signing this 48 years later. Somehow, history is being repeated. It was very personal for me."

He shared his feelings with members of the media during the press conference after the curtains came down on the 27th Asean Summit

and Related Summits yesterday.

The prime minister related that he had attended many summits, but the 27th Asean Summit here was the most substantive because it was not a business as usual affair.

Najib said tangible outcomes were achieved during the summit that concluded yesterday. They included the signing of the protocol to amend the existing free trade agreement to an upgraded version between Asean and China, and the agreement to establish the Palm Oil Council between Malaysia and Indonesia.

Najib was also upbeat that the world community had taken note of the need to embrace moderation and tolerance, especially in the fight against violent extremism.

"Even China and Russia wanted to work with other countries to combat violent extremism, not just the United States. We must also be sawy in using social media.

"That, I must say, we are quite lacking. We do need help to improve the medium that we use to disseminate (the counter-narratives)"



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak signing the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the Asean Community and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Asean 2025 yesterday. Bernama pic

He said Asean had reached a level where the it was being recognised by the world due to the camaraderie displayed by its leaders.

In addition, he said there were huge elements of trust and comfort felt among the regional bloc's leaders during the summit.

Touching on the progress of the Asean Economic Community, Najib said economic ministers from member states will meet next September at the 28th Asean Summit in Vientiane, Laos, and hopes there would be accomplishments and deliverables in terms of non-tariff reductions.

Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said Malaysia had set the bar high in hosting the 27th Asean Summit.

"Some of my colleagues said Malaysia has set high standards. They are saying, no way can they come close to what Malaysia has done," he said with a smile.