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## Najib welcomes Italian investors' confidence in Malaysia The Sun 5/10/2015

MILAN: Italian investors continue to have confidence in Malaysia, as evidenced by their decisions to expand and diversify their existing operations in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said here on Saturday.

He said Italian investments had grown at a brisk pace in a relatively short time, and that bilateral trade between the two countries had risen spectacularly.

Saying he hoped Rome and Kuala Lumpur would continue to work together for mutual benefit, Najib said Malaysia had a lot to offer Italian investors and businesses, based on its strong fundamentals and steady economic growth despite the challenging global environment.

"Italian investors have a strong presence in Malaysia. We are proud to host notable Italian companies such as Versalis, AugustaWestiand, Alfa Gomma, Galperti Group, Nicotra Fans and Blowers and Marelli Motori," he told Italian captains of industry at a roundtable meeting held in conjunction with Expo Milano 2015.

Also present were International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, president of Italian Malaysian Friendship Association Ambassador Anacleto Felicani, and chairman of the Malaysia and Brunei Committee of the Swiss Asia Chamber of Commerce Patrick H. Kriesemar.

Najib said over the last 10 years, Malaysian and Italian partnerships have shown impressive growth, with investments in the manufacturing sector up from US\$9-5 million (RM41.9 million) in 2010 to US\$303 million last year.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's overall total trade with Italy in 2014 alone amounted to US\$2.69 billion, he said.

Najib said there is political stability in Malaysia.

"However, in an open democracy, one must be tolerant of divergent views and this should not be equated with political instability," he added.

He said there is also racial harmony in Malaysia.

## PM denies meeting with Netanyahu

MILAN: Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has denied an allegation that he held a meeting with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently.

"I did not meet him... just bumped into him at the entrance of the UN because he spoke before me. Then it was my turn," he

said in reply to questions about a photograph of him on social media, purportedly meeting Netanyahu.

He said at that time Netanyahu was waiting for his car. "So we shook hands. There was nothing to it. This can be confirmed by the Foreign Minister and our ambassador in the US," he said.



GLITTERING EVENT ... The Sultanah of Terengganu Sultanah Nur Zahirah (centre), flanked by Najib and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and Malaysian designer Datuk Jimmy Choo at the Enchanting Elegance-Malaysia Fashion event held in conjunction with Expo Milano. Other dignitaries present included the Raja Puan Besar of Perak Raja Nor Mahani Raja Shahar Shah (second from left), Mustapa (right), and Mario Boselli, honorary past president of Milan's fashion association Camera Della Moda.