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PM has audience with Johor sultan

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UNSCHEDULED:

Meeting will forge closer ties between state, federal govts, says Najib

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had an unscheduled audience with Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar during his visit to Johor yesterday.

It is learnt that Najib began his audience with the ruler at 11.30am at Istana Bukit Serene, Johor Baru.

Najib spent an hour with Sultan Ibrahim and Tunku Mahkota Johor Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim.

The programme was a last-minute inclusion in Najib's itinerary and was considered a private function.

Sources close to the palace said the meeting took place at the request of Sultan Ibrahim. After the meeting, Sultan Ibrahim hosted a lunch for Najib at Country Garden

Danga Bay, Johor Baru.

On his Facebook page, Najib said his audience with Sultan Ibrahim would forge closer ties between the Federal and Johor governments.

"I had an audience with His Royal Highness the Sultan of Johor. Also present was Tunku Mahkota Johor. The meeting will forge closer ties between the federal and state governments," he said.

A source said Najib's visit was a courtesy call to the ruler.

"The meeting was a courtesy visit that the prime minister paid to the ruler. Nothing controversial was discussed. Later, the sultan and prime minister had a late lunch.

"It was a last-minute meeting."

In a speech at the launch of the new Muar Umno division building in Jalan Meriam, here, Najib apologised for being late as he was delayed after he met with the ruler.

"I was called to the palace for an audience with the Sultan of Johor and Tunku Mahkota Johor and was later invited to join them for lunch."

Najib said Sultan Ibrahim also gave his blessing to the launch of the new Muar Umno building, moreover since the building was located in Johor's royal town.

"I am happy to say that the Tunku Sultan of Johor has given his



Sultan of Johor **Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar**, Tunku Mahkota Johor **Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim** and Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** at Istana Bukit Serene, Johor Baru, yesterday.

blessing to the new Muar Umno building," he said.

A total of 3,000 guests, including Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders and members, attended

the ceremony.

Present were Umno permanent chairman Tan Sri Badaruddin Amiruddin, Johor Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Mo-

hamed Khaled Nordin, Malacca Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Idris Haron and Muar Umno division chief Datuk Razali Ibrahim.