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Najib to table Syariah Index report

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> 'I want to know government's commitment towards the Islamic agenda'

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak will table the Malaysian Syariah Index report, which will determine the implementation of Islamic agenda and the level of syariah-compliance in certain fields in Malaysia, on March 28.

Najib said the index was important and close to his heart as the prime minister as he wanted to know the government's commitment towards the

Islamic agenda.

He said the index, launched last February, would determine if the policies implemented by the government fulfilled the objectives of Islamic principles.

"We cannot jump to conclusions based only on general point of view. Sometimes, our views are influenced by our own personal experience.

"Maybe because the matter was not labelled as Islamic, or it was

being influenced by political consideration, that had caused our conclusions to stray from the reality," he said at the appreciation ceremony for the Malaysian Syariah Index 2015 research team yesterday.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and his deputy Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim) director-general Datuk Othman Mustapha and Malaysian Syariah Index Governance Committee chairman Tan Sri Dr Abdul

Shukor Husin.

The index, the first of its kind ever developed in the world, evaluated and assessed the government's seriousness in achieving the five aspects of the "Maqasid Syariah" or syariah requirements, namely the protection of the religion, protection of life, protection of the mind, protection of the race and protection of property.

It covers eight major areas, namely legal, politics, economy, education, health, culture, infrastructure and environment, and social." - Bernama