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Najib: Reject foreign interventions

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PM says these interventions only aim to destabilise lawfully elected leaders

THE interference of foreign powers have left some Muslim countries in disarray, and hurt them economically, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak said when urging Muslim countries to reject such meddling.

Speaking at the 12th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) in Jakarta, he said these "foreign interventions" only aim to destabilise lawfully elected leaders.

He said without political stability "there can be no economic progress".

He gave the examples of the Iraq invasion and the chain of events that led to chaos in Iraq, Syria and Libya, and the rise of militancy like Daesh.

"For we have seen the devastating results of foreign intervention in the Muslim world, often based on incomplete, wrong or partisan information. We must make clear that we reject it.

"And reject those who, out of political motivation, call



Najib (fourth from left) posing with other state leaders at the 12th WIEF in Jakarta yesterday

for foreign powers to intervene in their own country" Najib said.

Also present at the event were Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and WIEF chairman Tun Musa Hitam.

Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, the WIEF Foundation is a non-profit organisation that promotes business within the Muslim world.

Originating from a business forum at the Islamic Organisation Conference in Putrajaya in 2003, the WIEF has transformed into an

organisation of global stature.

Najib who did not refer to any country over the chaos in some of the Muslim nations, said the Arab Spring movement had caused "a harvest of instability across the region".

"Thousands have paid with their lives, while terrorists and other armed militias now roam freely over once secure lands. A Pandora's Box of sectarian conflict has been unleashed," he said, adding that the consequences of foreign interventions are still being felt today.

He said Muslim-majority countries such as Malaysia

and Indonesia which have not been subject to foreign intervention, "are oases of peace and stability".

"I have always been a proponent of openness to the world and collaboration. But we must insist on respect for our own sovereignty, laws, and democratically elected governments," he said.

Malaysia is in the spotlight after the US Department of Justice (DoJ) filed a civil complaint seeking the forfeiture of assets worth US\$1 billion (RM4.05 billion) in the US, allegedly purchased from proceeds siphoned from

1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The government and 1MDB had denied any wrongdoing. 1MDB said that none of the disclosed assets were owned by 1MDB. The government said DoJ did not consult the government and 1MDB in its investigation. However, the government promised transparency over the matter and will assist as provided by international law.

Najib also cited the growing influence of Daesh, the terrorists who, he said, "blaspheme our religion" by falsely claiming the mantle of an Islamic State.

"There is nothing Islamic about a group that practices such barbarities," he said.

He called on Muslim nations to fight Daesh lies with the truth about Islam.

"Malaysia stands firmly against Daesh and their accomplices, both at home and abroad," he said.

The prime minister also mentioned Malaysia's Regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communications Centre.

The centre outside Kuala Lumpur is meant to counter the Daesh threat and the spread of its philosophy.