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PM: Reject foreign intervention

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12TH WIEF: Their meddling in Muslim world has led to political instability, turmoil, says Najib

JAKARTA

THE Muslim world must reject foreign intervention in their internal affairs, as such actions have led to political instability and turmoil in recent years, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

Addressing more than 2,500 participants at the 12th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) here yesterday, he said without political stability, there can be no



economic progress.

"The invasion of Iraq in particular set in motion a disastrous chain of events.

"Chaos, destruction and the possible break-up of nation states are spectres that have visited countries such as Iraq, Syria and Libya.

"The so-called Arab Spring yielded 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.

By comparison, Muslim-majority countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, which have not been subject to foreign intervention, are oases of peace and stability, said Najib, who is on a three-day working visit to Indonesia.

"This is why the leaders here today must work to solve our problems and issues together.

"I have always been a proponent of openness to the world and collaboration.

"But, we must insist on respect for our own sovereignty, our own laws and our own democratically elected governments.

"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 for foreign

powers to intervene in their own country.

"We, as the ummah, will take responsibility for ourselves, and we pray for guidance to do so."

Najib was alluding to the civil complaint recently filed by the United States Department of Justice, claiming that certain individuals had misappropriated funds from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) to buy luxury assets in the US.

1MDB has clarified that it has no assets in the US.

The theme of WIEF this year is "Decentralising Growth, Empowering Future Business".

Najib said one of the challenges facing Muslim nations was the scourge of the Islamic State (IS), comprising terrorists who blaspheme the religion by falsely claiming the mantle of an Islamic state.

"There is nothing Islamic about a group that practises such barbari-

ties, and it is crucial that Muslim-majority countries take the lead in condemning them.

"We must fight their lies with the truth about Islam.

"We must oppose with all our might their attempts to indoctrinate our young people and take advantage of those on the margins or who have lost their way."

Malaysia, Najib said, stood firmly against IS and their accomplices, both at home and abroad.

A regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communication Centre has been set up outside Kuala Lumpur to counter extremist messages.

"It is soon to be operational, and we will gladly share our expertise in preventing radicalisation and in deradicalising men and women who have fallen for the deceptions of this wicked and un-Islamic group.

"We will be steadfast in this fight, for it concerns us all."