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## Kuisas gets varsity status

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**KUALA KANGSAR:** Kolej Universiti Islam Sultan Azlan Shah (Kuisas) has been granted the status of a university.

In line with the announcement here, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak renamed the institute Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah.

Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, said the move was one of the promises BN made during the last general election.

"This is also a recognition of Kuala Kangsar as the oldest education town in the country. With this announcement, Kuisas will receive a Federal Government grant with immediate effect."

Najib said this in a speech before performing Friday prayers at Kuisas Mosque.

Joining him were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and BN candidate for the Kuala Kangsar by-election Datin Mastura Mohd Yazid's sons — Wan Emir Astar Wan Mohammad Khairil Anuar, Wan Imar Izzat, Wan Iskandar and Wan Muhammad Ammar.

Najib urged Muslims to remain united and reject extremism.

"The government is committed to preserving Islam by emulating a moderate approach based on the *maqasid syariah* (objectives of Islamic principles). The Syariah Index will serve as a benchmark to determine whether the country is fulfilling the objectives of Islamic principles."

Kuisas began operations in 1999 and was known as Kolej Islam Darul Ridzuan before being upgraded to a university college in 2013. It was the brainchild of the late Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah.

Upgrading Kuisas into a university was one of the five agendas Mastura promised to voters.

Other projects and developments include speeding up the approval for the Manong Bridge; seeking approval to widen Jalan Manong-Kuala Kangsar; upgrading Kuala Kangsar Hospital to a specialist hospital; and, redeveloping the Sungai Perak riverbank into a tourism spot. **By Rahmat Khairulrijal**



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak poses for a picture after performing Friday prayers at the Kolej Universiti Islam Sultan Azlan Shah mosque in Kuala Kangsar yesterday. Pic by Danial Saad**