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# KL-Riyadh ties at highest level: Najib

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> 'King Salman very happy with current state of relations'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud views relations between Malaysia and the kingdom as being at the highest level, and set to deepen further.

This acknowledgment was conveyed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak who had an audience with the Saudi monarch at the latter's residence here on Wednesday.

"What the king told me was that he is very satisfied with how things stand in terms of ties between our two countries," Najib told a media conference after as he concluded his working visit to Saudi Arabia which began on Feb 29.

Noting that King Salman was impressed with what Malaysia had achieved as a country, Najib said he, on behalf of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, had extended an invitation for the Saudi Arabian king to make a state visit to Malaysia.

He also said he was astonished to see the presence of a sizeable number of Saudi royals, cabinet members and high-ranking military officials at the luncheon following his audience with King Salman.

Najib said his take on it was that it could indicate the level of importance attached by the Saudis to ties between Riyadh and Kuala Lumpur, and expressed hopes the special relations would translate into aspects that could further benefit Malaysians.



Najib and King Salman during their meeting.

Najib said linkages between both countries had evolved to reflect current concerns in the form of security threats posed by militant group Daesh, not only to Saudi Arabia but also Malaysia, the Southeast Asian region and beyond.

"I shared with King Salman about how Daesh had managed to attract to its cause Malaysians in Malaysia as well as Malaysians who have joined the group in Syria and Iraq," he said.

Najib also said that having honed its skills in jungle warfare, Malaysia stands to gain valuable lessons in desert warfare, thanks to

its participation in a military exercise in northern Saudi Arabia.

He noted that threats nowadays could rear their ugly heads from all sorts of environments and circumstances.

"We need to be able to operate in different surroundings such as desert warfare and urban warfare, both of which we're still not there yet," he said.

Najib had earlier visited a group of Malaysian Armed Forces personnel taking part in the "Thunder of the North" military drill in the Hafar Al Batin training ground. The event involves 20 countries. - Bernama