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PM: Vital to re-energise Malaysia-Britain ties

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LONDON: Britain's market confidence in the Malaysian economy remains high, thanks partly to the continuous high-level efforts by the Government to engage with its British counterpart and private sector, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister ended his five-day working visit to Britain on Tuesday – his second visit in less than a year to the country where he had received his tertiary education.

Speaking to the Malaysian media at the end of his visit, Najib noted the importance of re-energising the two countries' relationship from time to time so that Malaysia would

stay on Britain's radar.

Britain is one of the top European manufacturing investors in Malaysia while Malaysia is the second largest investor in London's commercial property market.

"We need to do such an engagement (with the British government and industry), especially if they are not getting the true picture from media reports that may be inaccurate or contain elements introduced with ill intention by certain parties," Najib said.

"When we have engagements like this, we are able to provide them with the facts."

He believes the Government's

efforts ensure the warm sentiment and positive attitude of the British government and private sector towards Malaysia continues to be strong.

During his visit, Najib, among others, inaugurated the Malaysian-UK Investor Showcase organised jointly by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, which started with the Bursa Malaysia Breakfast Session with potential British investors.

On the response, Bursa CEO Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan told *The Star* that the reception was good.

"Fund managers are well informed. They already have the facts and know what they want, but they want to hear it straight from the horse's mouth. They want to hear from the Prime Minister about the development plans and growth, and what we'll do to move forward," he said.

In the past, Tajuddin said "we would get 15 to 16 fund managers but this time we had 28. Of these, only two had joined us previously. The rest were fresh participants".

Najib told the media that among the issues raised by the fund managers pertained to skills and productivity.

"I took this opportunity to explain to them that we (the Government) are committed to growth and that we will pay very close attention to skills and talent development as well as productivity growth.

"We are a business-friendly government; we will support them in any way possible to increase the UK investments in Malaysia," he said.

Newly elected Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, whom Najib met, told him that he was pleased Khazanah had chosen to site its regional office for Europe in the city.

"He believes this will lead to more investments and deals between Malaysia and Britain," said Najib.