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PM kicks off crucial China visit

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WARM WELCOME:
Najib's delegation includes 9 ministers, 2 MBs and a CM



BEIJING

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arrived here yesterday for an official visit aimed at strengthening Malaysia-China ties in a wide range of sectors.

The prime minister's special aircraft touched down at the VIP Terminal of Beijing Capital International Airport at 12.30pm.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, were received by China's Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin, and Malaysian ambassador to China Datuk Zainuddin Yahya and his wife Datin Fairis Ishak.

The prime minister's delegation included nine ministers, Johor and

Terengganu menteri besar and the Malacca chief minister.

This is Najib's third official visit to China as prime minister.

The first was in 2009, and the second in 2014, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and China.

Najib also had three working visits to China, in 2012, 2014 and last year.

The official welcoming ceremony will be held at the Great Hall of the People today, followed by a bilateral meeting between Najib and his counterpart, Li Keqiang, and their respective delegations.

"The meeting is expected to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak being greeted by **China's Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin** at the Beijing Capital International Airport yesterday. With them are Najib's wife, **Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor**, and Malaysian ambassador to China **Datuk Zainuddin Yahya** (second from left). Pic courtesy of Prime Minister's Office

and investment, education, defence, agriculture, tourism and culture, science and technology, and people-to-people contact," Zainuddin said yesterday, adding that a joint press statement would be is-

sued after the meeting.

Najib's schedule includes meetings with China President Xi Jinping and Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the National People's Congress. He will also meet Alibaba Group founder

Jack Ma and 30 captains of industry from China, as well as deliver a keynote address at the Malaysia-China Business Forum, which 400 businessmen are expected to attend.