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# A warm, friendly gathering between two leaders

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It was a warm welcome for the Malaysian delegation to the White House as they were greeted personally by US President Donald Trump.

Unlike most political leaders constrained by protocol, Trump showed genuine warmth as he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on arrival at the West Wing.

As Najib introduced his delegation members to Trump, they went up one by one to shake his hand and were greeted by a "Thank you and nice to see you" from the President.

When Najib introduced Datuk

Seri Mustapa Mohamed as the International Trade and Industry Minister, Trump shook Mustapa's hand, gestured at the Prime Minister and said: "So this is the guy doing all the big trade deals for you."

Najib quickly responded, "Tough trade deals."

As more members of the delegation went up to Trump in the Roosevelt Room, where Najib had earlier signed the guest book, the President casually said: "I tell you what, let me walk down (the line of visitors)," much to the amusement of those present.

They later adjourned to the Oval Office for a meeting that lasted about 20 minutes, accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson before joining the rest of the delegation for a 30-minute meeting.

A Malaysian official said the tone of the bilateral meeting was warm and friendly.

"We can see that the President was not constrained by protocol. That in a way manifests the warmth as a corporate leader - he gets everybody on board, unlike tradi-

tional politicians," the official said.

Officials said Najib's trip to the White House set the right tone for a friendly and focused discussion on areas of mutual interests.

At the end of the meeting, Trump did something he rarely does, according to officials - he accompanied the Prime Minister right up to the official car to bid him farewell.

"The Prime Minister is very happy, especially with the kind personal treatment by the President sending him right to the car," said an official.