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Najib meets Trump

> Talks between both leaders set to open new chapter in M'sia-US ties

WASHINGTON: Talks between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak have gotten under way at the White House in a meeting that is set to open a new page following 60 years

of bilateral relations between the United States and one of its strategic partners in Southeast Asia.

Najib was warmly welcomed by Trump on arrival for their one-on-one meeting at the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue in what is Najib's first visit to the official workplace and residence of the US president, reported Bernama.

The discussion with Trump is the highlight of Najib's Sept 11-13 working visit to the US at Trump's invitation.

The programme at the White House included an expanded delegation meeting involving members and advisers of the Trump administration as well as Malaysian ministers and senior government officials.

Earlier, Najib said Malaysia will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the US on the vital mission to eliminate a terror group whose acts sicken all of civilised humanity.

The prime minister said being a partner in the US-led global coalition to defeat Islamic State (IS), Malaysia had fought against violent extremism through the promotion of moderation and through its de-radicalisation programme, which has

had a 90% success rate.

"We have fought this through intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism measures in our region and beyond.

"I am proud to say that the Royal Malaysian Police has thwarted at least 13 major terrorist attacks since 2012.

"And we have fought this through being a partner in the US-led global coalition to defeat Daesh (IS) and through the strategic dialogue between our Ministry of Defence and the Pentagon," he said in his article titled "Malaysian Prime Minister: Trump, We have your back in fighting ISIS" published in The Hill, a top US political website, on Monday.

Najib, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, is in Washington DC for a three-day working visit, said his meeting with Trump would mark six decades of strong bilateral ties.

He said Malaysia-US ties had gone beyond trade as both nations shared deep-seated values in other aspects.

"Together, these values elevated our relationship to an even higher level in 2014 as an official 'Comprehensive Partnership'."

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