

**Allowance Increment For District Supervisors Of Mosque - Najib  
Bernama  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced an increase in the allowance for district supervisors of mosque, from RM1,210 to RM1,800, effective next year.

Their mileage claim will also be increased to RM700 from RM500.

"In view of the fact that there are currently only 87 supervisors of mosque nationwide, I would like to also announce that the government has agreed to increase the number of posts to one supervisor for each district throughout the country.

"With this, it is hoped that the institution of the mosque and surau can be upheld and safeguarded," he said at the Ulama, Umara and Imam Convention at Putra World Trade Centre, here Friday.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim and Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) director-general Datuk Othman Mustapha.

Najib also said that a special ulama and umara (leaders) secretariat, known as Umum, would be set up to facilitate better communication between the government and Islamic scholars.

Through Umum, which would be headed by JAKIM and put under the Prime Minister's Department, Najib said, programmes such as dialogue, forum, laboratory initiatives and other activities could be administered in a strategic collaboration with existing agencies.

He said the secretariat would also spearhead the Islamic strategic laboratory to draw up solutions and plans pertaining to Islamic matters.

To further strengthen Islamic religious administration at the federal level, the prime minister also announced the setting up of an Islamic Administration Centre at Precinct 2 in Putrajaya which is expected to be completed in 2014.

"The government is aware of the special role and the relations between the ulama and umara in ensuring the well-being of the people and country.

The government has high hopes for these groups...to share their views in all aspects of the administration and in issues concerning the interest of Muslims who are constantly faced with numerous challenges," he said.

Najib said the advice of ulama would benefit the government and the people, stressing that the country's leaders would need the help of ulama and intellectuals in many areas.

"The umara needs the views of ulama, to obtain feedback on issues and understanding from the points of fatwa and Islamic decrees. This can only be realised through close ties

between the ulama and umara," he said.

He also expressed the hope that the institution of ulama can be further strengthened to instill respect towards it.

Najib also said that ulama should not adopt a fanatic and partisan approach to politics.

"Not all issues in the country, much less religious issues, should become the subject of polemics or be politicised; even to the extent of politicising haj pilgrimage issues for the political gain of certain quarters," he said.

At the event, Syeikh Roslan Abdul Halim, the grand imam of the Zahir Mosque in Alor Setar, Kedah, was named the recipient of the national-level Tokoh Imam.

Najib also launched the book, "1Malaysia: Sudut Pandangan Islam" (1Malaysia: From Islamic Point of View) published by JAKIM and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

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