

Najib: Libya can soar to greater heights
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NANNING: Malaysia will acknowledge the new Libyan government when it is elected, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said while it was sad the way Muammar Gaddafi died, his death was expected, especially after he had vowed to defend his position at any cost.

"What is important now is for the Libyans to open a new chapter and start rebuilding their lives. The nation is rich in oil and the population is small. They can work towards a prosperous future," he said after attending the 8th China-Asean Exposition here. He is accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Najib believed the North African oil-producing nation had great potential to flourish and that the new leadership would be able give its people the chance to enjoy what they could not before.

"I hope Libyans will set aside their tribal rifts and come together to drive the nation to greater heights."

The prime minister said Malaysia would continue to monitor the situation in Libya as it underwent its transitional phase.

"We have a small number of our students there. For now, there are no reports that they are in any danger."

The National Transitional Council (NTC), the interim authority which led the revolt against Gaddafi, reportedly remained uncertain where and when the funeral would take place. Gaddafi, it was reported, was killed by rebel forces in their final assault on the last pocket of resistance in his hometown Sirte.

In Kuala Lumpur, Libyans rejoiced after hearing of Gaddafi's death as this meant Libya was "100 per cent" liberated.

Libyan Ambassador to Malaysia Bubaker al-Mansori said after years under the "tyrannical Gaddafi", his death was a positive development for Libya and the NTC.

"All his loyalists and supporters have been captured or killed. His death is an end to a 42-year-long dictatorship and eight months of bloodshed. The man who is responsible for the death of 35,000 Libyans is now dead."

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