

Three Renowned Saudi Arabian Ulama Praise Malaysian Government Leadership
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By Azeman Ariffin

MECCA, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Three renowned Saudi Arabian ulama regard Malaysia as a country which has successfully placed Islam as the foundation for its development programmes.

The ulama, Sheikh Dr Abdullah Hamad Jalaly, Masjidil Haram (Mecca Grand Mosque) mufti Sheikh Dr Sulaiman Al Salumi and Mecca Court Chief Justice Dr Saleh Darwish, had stated their opinions on Malaysia at a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, here, Tuesday.

They together with Wasir TV Channel advisor Sheikh Dr Abdul Rahim Mulazadah and Al Majd TV chairman Dr Hammad Mohamad Al Ghammas had paid a courtesy call on the prime minister who is leading a Malaysian delegation to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Extraordinary Summit in the holy city starting today.

Najib told Malaysian journalists covering his participation in the summit, that the three ulama had praised Malaysia for being able to strengthen the position of Islam by making Islam the official religion of the federation although Malaysia's population is multiracial and multireligious.

He said the Saudi Arabian ulama were also awed by the Malaysian government leadership's ability to build good relations between the ulama and national leaders, and wanted other Muslim countries to make Malaysia a role model as a progressive Islamic nation.

"We also informed them of the concept of moderation that we have always upheld, and at the state-level, we have enactments that state that we uphold the Sunnah Wal Jemaah Islamic teachings to avoid any conflict and deviation of faith among Muslims and so on," he said.

Najib said the ulama also felt that the Malaysian government's approach in providing leadership based on Islamic principles had prevented Malaysia from being mired in conflicts, unlike in other countries with a plural society.

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