

Najib Enthralled When Visiting 1,200-Year-Old Great Mosque

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XI'AN (China), May 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was enthralled when visiting the 1,200-year-old Great Mosque in Xi'an, the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi province.

He described the mosque as a poignant reminder that Islam co-existed with other faiths in China for such a long time.

"Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. Its continued survival until today was due to the degree of tolerance with the Chinese society," he told Malaysian journalists in Xi'an on Wednesday.

Upon his arrival at the mosque, Najib and his entourage were received by the imam of the Great Mosque, Ding Jiping.

Following the visit, the prime minister presented US\$10,000 (RM32,100) on behalf of the Malaysian Government, to the mosque for heritage preservation.

Earlier in the day, Najib arrived at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8.50am to officiate the '3rd Malaysia-Xi'an Halal Food Festival Week' at Beiyuanmen Street (Muslim Street) and tour the Malaysian booths.

A total of 35 Malaysian entrepreneurs are participating in the food fair this year.

Before departing for Beijing, Najib, accompanied by wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and their son, Nor Ashman visited the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses.

Joining him on the visit were International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to China, Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting.

The Malaysian delegation is scheduled to meet top Chinese leaders in Beijing.

Najib began his six-day official visit to China on Tuesday to commemorate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and China.

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