

Najib Hosts Lunch For Australian Counterpart At Seri Perdana
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PUTRAJAYA, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today hosted an official luncheon in honour of Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott at his official residence, Seri Perdana, here.

Also present were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tong Lai, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin, Communications and Multimedia Deputy Minister Datuk Jailani Johari, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Jauhari Yahya and Director-General of Civil Aviation Datuk Azharuddin Abdul Rahman.

In his speech, Najib said, the two tragedies of MH370 and MH17 had strengthened relationship between the two countries that had existed for a long time.

"Although this year has been defined by two tragedies but in a very ironic way, it has brought up two countries closer together, certainly my relationship with Prime Minister Tony.

"I'm very greatfull for his deep commitment, and his support has been wonderful for us to overcome the tragedies of MH370 and MH17," he said.

Meanwhile, Abbott praised Malaysia as a Muslim country and a great example to the world.

"A lot of papers write, around the world (people) knows and are anxious about things that are happening in the Middle East and a lot of papers have images of culture and facts which are not very correct.

"Such papers should come to Malaysia, and see pluralism, prosperity and freedom here where it is deeply an Islamic country and society. I want to congratulate Malaysia and Prime Minister Najib," he said.

Abbott is here for a one-day official visit and his first visit to Malaysia since his appointment as the Prime Minister of Australia on Sept 18 2013.

Ealier, Najib showed Abbott some of the local fruits which were specially served for him and his delegation. Abbott tasted the 'nangka' and 'dukung'.

Earlier today, both leaders held bilateral discussions on the status of the two countries' cooperation in relation to the MAS Flight MH370 and Flight MH17 incidents and a joint press conference at the prime minister's office at Bangunan Perdana Putra.

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