

**Malaysian Syariah Index Proves Umno Empowers Islam - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Syariah Index to be launched on Feb 10 is a manifestation that Umno empowers not only the supremacy of Islam but also Islamic principles in the country, said prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Najib, who is also the Umno president, said the introduction of the index would repel allegations that Umno was not committed in championing the Islamic cause.

"As a government that is buttressed by Umno, our commitment is not only to empower the supremacy of Islam but also the Islamic principles in line with Clause Three of the party constitution.

"It is a commitment that we have fulfilled all this while but it is not turned into a benchmark.

"When we implement this, Malaysia will be the first country to have a syariah index," he told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council (MT) meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre, here Friday.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister cum Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, vice-presidents Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Umno information head Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

Najib said the Malaysian Syariah Index to be launched in conjunction with the 'Perdana Ulama Mubarak 2015' ceremony will give special emphasis on five matters namely religion, life, mind, race and assets.

He said the index would involve eight main sectors namely education, economy, infrastructure and environment, law, health, politics, culture and social.

"If there is positive evaluation after its introduction, we hope that it can be adopted by other Muslim nations subsequently.

"We also hope that with the existence of this benchmark, it will show clearly what we have done and implemented in terms of Islamic fulfillment all this while," he said.

The prime minister said that a special task force from Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, the Department of Islamic Development (Jakim) and religious experts would be responsible in preparing the index.

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