

**Official Jets Not For Luxury - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said it has been a standard practice across the world for most leaders to use official jets, not for luxury, but for efficiency in carrying out their duties.

"The aircraft's interior is configured such that meetings and discussions can be held on board and that the work of state can continue even during the flight.

"Therefore the question does not arise as to whether or not a country should have an official jet," he said in his latest blog posting at NajibRazak.com.

Najib Sunday listed 13 allegations and claims that was hurled at him and the government, along with his response to them.

He also said the Airbus Corporate Jet (ACJ 320) executive aircraft was purchased to replace a 16-year old aircraft that was becoming a safety hazard.

"Moreover, it is also the official aircraft used by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, providing all the more reason for us not to compromise on safety and security," he added.

Najib said the cost of maintaining an old aircraft is high, and hence, the older aircraft is being disposed of and the money the government makes from its sale will clearly reduce the cost paid for the new aircraft.

"We must not be taken in by the opposition propaganda that the government was wasting money on a new jet. What they failed to explain was that the jet was purchased to replace a 16-year old aircraft that was becoming a safety hazard," he added.

Today, ACJ320 executive aircraft, that is newly acquired by the government, made its first official flight ferrying Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah from Alor Star to Langkawi.

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