

Najib Arrives In Jeddah To Begin His Official Visit

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From Noor Hammad Wariman

JEDDAH, June 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was accorded an official ceremony led by Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif al-Saud at the King Abdulaziz al-Saud International Airport, here Saturday night.

Such a ceremonial welcome was an honour to a Malaysian leader as the King bestows the protocol to a select few.

Najib, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, arrived here for a three-day official visit at the invitation of King Salman Abdulaziz al-Saud and they were welcomed by the Saudi Arabian receiving party.

The invitation signifies the close relationship between Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

Najib, who has a tight schedule during his stay in Saudi Arabia, arrived at the airport on a special flight at 9.13pm local time (2.13am Malaysian time).

Najib is leading a delegation of senior Malaysian Cabinet Ministers including Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Minister at the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharum.

National anthems of Malaysia and Saudi Arabia were played at the welcoming ceremony.

Najib and members of the delegation later scheduled to attend a Royal Banquet at As-salam Palace, Jeddah, hosted by King Salman.

On early Sunday, Najib will visit Mashaaer al-Mugaddasah station (Southern Line) of the Makkah project where Prasarana Malaysia Berhad (Prasarana) is involved in.

Prasarana won a bid as 'shadow operator' of the first phase of the Makkah Metro Public Transport System (Makkah Metro).

Few minutes before noon, Najib will have an audience with King Salman at As-Salam Palace.

The meeting would further strengthen ties that had always been enjoyed by both countries.

This will be the first official meeting of the two leaders since King Salman was crowned earlier this year.

In the evening, Najib and Rosmah will head for Masjidil Haram to perform the umrah

before departing home on Monday.

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