

Najib Thanks Saudi Arabia For Awarding Project To Prasarana

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From Noor Hammad Wariman

JEDDAH, June 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he has thanked the Saudi government for awarding the contract for managing the Metro Line railway service which connects Arafah, Muzdalifah and Mina to Prasarana Malaysia Bhd (Prasarana).

Najib said he had conveyed this when he met King Salman Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia here Sunday.

He said the service which will begin operations in the 2015 haj season involves more than 7,000 employees, 300 of whom are Malaysians.

It was also hoped Prasarana would be considered for other infrastructural development projects in Saudi Arabia, he told Malaysian journalists here after his meeting with King Salman.

He added that Prasarana was also looking at participating in infrastructure projects in Qatar which will be hosting the football World Cup in 2018.

Najib had the audience with King Salman at the As-Salam Palace here.

The prime minister spent about half an hour with the ruler starting at 12.05pm local time (5.05pm Malaysia time). The meeting was part of Najib's three-day official visit to the kingdom upon invitation of King Salman.

This is the first time Najib has met King Salman in an official capacity after a brief meeting during the funeral of the previous Saudi monarch, King Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Saud, in January.

Later, Najib had a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif Al-Saud.

Accompanying Najib are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom.

On his meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif al-Saud, Najib said he conveyed Tabung Haji's hopes to develop its centres in Makkah and Madinah. Previously, Prasarana had won a bid to be the 'shadow operator' for the First Phase of the Metro Public Transport Programme (Makkah Metro).

Prasarana Group managing director, Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar said as the shadow operator, Prasarana provided consultation services in management and maintenance to

Syarikat Transit Rel Massa Makkah during the construction of the First Phase of Makkah Metro.

Makkah Metro covers two routes with 22 stations over a distance of 45.1 kilometres, 24.9km underground.

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