

Najib Among 18 World Leaders To Attend Swearing-in Of New Indonesian President Bernama

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From Roslan Ariffin

JAKARTA, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will be among 18 world leaders who are scheduled to attend the swearing-in of Indonesia's new president Joko Widodo here tomorrow.

A Wisma Putra statement issued to Malaysian journalists here said Najib would leave Kuala Lumpur for Jakarta this evening, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Department and Foreign Ministry.

The swearing-in of the seventh Indonesian president is scheduled for 10 am tomorrow at the People's Consultative Assembly, Indonesia's highest constitutional body.

The Wisma Putra statement said Najib would take the opportunity of his working visit to Jakarta to meet with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and United States Secretary of State John Kerry, who are scheduled to attend the inauguration as well.

Joko, widely known as Jokowi, won the hotly contested Indonesian presidential election on July 22, beating Prabowo Subianto, a retired army general.

Joko and his running mate Jusuf Kalla had polled 70,990,832 or 53.15 per cent of the total 133,567,276 votes. Prabowo and his running mate Hatta Rajasa garnered 62,576,444 or 46.85 per cent of the votes.

Joko succeeds Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has been in office since 2004. Meanwhile, preparations are in full swing in this capital city for the inauguration, with various events and activities being arranged for Jokowi's meeting with the people.

After the swearing-in, Jokowi will make his maiden address to the people live over television, during which he is likely to outline his plans to develop Indonesia over the next five years.

The enthusiasm of the Indonesian people is reflected in the coverage by the country's media, particularly television stations, which interviewed local leaders, businessmen and the people on their hopes and aspirations under the rule of the new president.

Some 24,000 security personnel have been deployed in the city to ensure that the inauguration, expected to take about two hours, proceeds smoothly.

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