

**First Group of Syrian Immigrants Meet Najib
Bernama
Dec 9, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Wednesday met with the first group of eight Syrian immigrants from two families who arrived in the country yesterday, at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

The 15-minute meeting in conjunction with the 2015 UMNO General Assembly was also attended by the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and UMNO secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

The families' representative, Mohamed Ibrahim, 29, said they highly appreciated the concern of the Malaysian government for the welfare of the Syrian people affected by the conflict there.

At the meeting, he said Najib, who is also UMNO president, promised that their life in this country would certainly be better, including the opportunity of continuing their studies and the government's willingness to issue them with working visas.

"He said they (the Government) will make it more comfortable for us here, (they should) not be scared and a bright future is awaiting for us here," he told reporters after the meeting.

The arrival of the family at 4.50 pm yesterday from Istanbul, Turkey was made possible due to the initiative of Mohamed and his friend, Ali Abdul Naser, who had made a personal application to the Malaysian government via the Special Task Force implementing the entry of Syrians into the country.

Mohamed, who has been living in this country for four years and works as a barber in Bangsar, here, said he was grateful that his family could also come here after their home in Idlib was destroyed in the war.

"I like Malaysia because the people always smile, they have clean heart and always help each other," he said adding that he was very happy that Malaysia would open its doors to more Syrian immigrants.

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