

Successful, Productive US-ASEAN Summit, Says PM Najib

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From Jamaluddin Muhammad

SUNNYLANDS (California), Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has described the just-concluded US-ASEAN Leaders Summit hosted by United States President Barack Obama here as successful, productive and very significant.

He said US-ASEAN relationship had an important role to play in contributing to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

"President Obama, in his closing remarks, thanked Kuala Lumpur as country coordinator for US-ASEAN relations," Najib told Malaysian journalists Tuesday (Wednesday in Malaysia) at the end of the two-day summit.

Najib had shared his thoughts on combating terrorism during discussions Tuesday on safeguarding peace, prosperity and security in the Asia Pacific by highlighting that ideological warfare was an important tool besides military action.

Substantiating his point on the issue, he said Malaysia would set up a regional counter-messaging centre to win the hearts and minds of the people so that they declined the Daesh ideology.

Najib said the centre would counter Daesh ideology, which went contrary to the true principles of Islam, as well as other wrongful narratives of Islam.

He said the centre would be the country's contribution towards combating terrorism.

Citing Malaysia's seriousness in fighting terrorism, the prime minister said Malaysia would also come up with a Syariah Index soon in defining authentic Islamic principles and struggles as well as defining the true meaning of Islamic states.

Najib had also shared with the nine other ASEAN leaders and Obama his thoughts on the moderation approach, another important tool in combating terrorism.

Touching on climate change, he had called on developed countries to implement their pledged commitment on the Climate Change Fund and Green Fund in fighting global warming.

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