

## **Najib Strengthens Country's Foreign Policy for International Glory**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- Besides shining in the country, the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak also succeeded in bringing glory to Malaysia in the eyes of the world throughout his 40-year struggle in the political arena.

Since his appointment as the sixth Malaysian Prime Minister on April 3, 2009, Najib's integrity in the international arena became more significant and among the clear examples are Malaysia's success in organising two ASEAN summit meetings when Malaysia held the ASEAN chair in 2015.

Malaysia's initiative to achieve the 'People-Oriented ASEAN' received positive response from the ASEAN leaders who adopted the 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN that is people-oriented' during the 27th ASEAN Summit Meeting.

The declaration is most meaningful to Najib because it continues the legacy of his late father Tun Abdul Razak Hussein who was then foreign minister together with his four counterparts from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand when they signed the Bangkok Declaration that led to the establishment of ASEAN.

At the international stage including at the United Nations General Assembly, Najib constantly championed the concept of moderation and opposed terrorism.

On Oct 2 last year, the Prime Minister was vociferous in criticising the Tel Aviv regime for encroaching into the Palestinian territory and called for all the injustices carried out against the people of Palestine to be stopped permanently.

The Prime Minister had also spoken strongly against the extremist ideology and the terrorist groups by stressing that a new solution must be found to overcome the problem when he officiated the 27th ASEAN Summit Meeting on Nov 27 last year.

As the number one leader in the country, Najib was among those who further strengthened relations between Malaysia and China in various fields started during the era of his late father.

This was in line with Malaysia's position which remained as China's largest ASEAN trading partner for six years consecutively since 2008.

In other areas, the Prime Minister was resolute in facing the various challenges especially when Malaysia faced the tragedy of the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 and the shooting down of flight MH17 in 2014.

His wisdom in tackling the tragedies received praises from foreign leaders including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Geostrategy expert from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Prof Dr Azmi Hassan told Bernama that the Foreign Policy adopted by Najib was pragmatic because every decision made was based on national interest which enabled Malaysia to be respected by the international community and among the Muslim nations.

"Malaysia is considered the best example because of its moderate approach and progressiveness. For example, in 2009 when Barack Obama was elected as the United States (US) president and delivered a speech for the first time in Cairo, he had cited Malaysia as an exemplary Muslim nation," he told Bernama.

Dr Azmi said the incident on the disappearance of flight MH370 on March 8, 2014 and MH17 which was shot down on July 17, 2014, as well as the whole year of 2015 were manifestations of the transparent and neutral foreign policy adopted by the Prime Minister.

The best example to show Najib's pragmatic foreign policy was when he faced the MH17 air crash incident which killed 298 people including 43 Malaysian nationals.

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