

**Najib Shares Wasatiyyah Experience In "Wasatiyyah: Idea Dan Realiti" Book
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today launched his book "Wasatiyyah: Idea dan Realiti", which includes an essence of the Malaysian experience in handling the five conflicts in international relations through the wasatiyyah concept.

The book, his sixth, was jointly published by the Malaysian National Institute of Translation (ITNM) and the Wasatiyyah Institute of Malaysia (IWM) in Malay and English, and was introduced at a ceremony held at Seri Perdana here today.

In the book's six chapters, the Prime Minister began with an explanation of Wasatiyyah, the Bangsamoro conflict in the Philippines, the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 tragedy, the terrorism ideology and extremist acts, the impact of the younger generation on the future, and Malaysia's continued support for the Palestinian struggle.

In the book, Najib also provided an explanation of the true Islamic concept which did not include violent and inhuman acts.

In the introduction, the Prime Minister was quoted as saying recognition should be given to Malaysia's integrity in leading global solidarity, and in fact, it should be made a model to assist any other party which is faced with a similar situation.

Najib also expressed Malaysia's commitment in upholding the Wasatiyyah concept and would do anything to share and promote it at the international level.

Founded on true Islamic teachings, Malaysia was convinced that Wasatiyyah was the best framework, whether in national governance or as a model for problem solving, said the Prime Minister.

The book is sold at RM40 in Peninsular Malaysia and RM45 in Sabah and Sarawak, and can be found in Kedai Buku 1Malaysia as well as the major bookstores.

It can also be bought online at www.itbm.com.my or www.iwm.jpm.my.

In an interview with the chief executive officer of Perbadanan Kota Buku Sayed Munawar Sayed Mohd Mustar after the book launch, Najib also shared his experience negotiating with the leader of the separatist group in east Ukraine, Alexander Borodai during the MH17

tragedy.

The Prime Minister said he was faced with a major dilemma after meeting the families of the MH17 victims which made him determined to undertake a difficult task which was to bring back the remains of the victims and to recover the MH17 black box immediately.

"I tried to use my networking with the heads of states I knew and one knew Borodai and I told him I wanted to talk directly with him," he said.

Najib said he also decided to become the operations director and instructed Colonel Mohd Sakri Hussin, who led the National Security Council Operations in Kiev, Ukraine, to continue with the mission.

"When I gave the instruction, he (Mohd Sakri) seemed not to believe, and I gave him the assurance that all will be safe and he contacted me at every check point he passed through. I did not sleep the whole night, and it was the fasting month.

"From his voice, I could sense he was nervous, because as you know, the people there are twice our size and had all sorts of sophisticated weapons, at the same time, I was also nervous because I was giving the instruction to enter a high-risk conflict area," he said.

Asked if at that time, he sided with the world superpowers who were involved in the conflict, Najib said such an action could possibly create difficulty in bringing back the remains of the victims and retrieving the MH17 black box.

"We could be lumped together with the separatist group or the pro-Ukraine and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), so I told the other leaders, including the President of Ukraine that Malaysia would not interfere and we were victims of a geo-political dispute," Najib said.

During the visit of Ukraine Prime Minister Petro Poroshenko to Malaysia recently, he said Malaysia was still making efforts to foster good bilateral relations with the country.

On his experience as mediator in the south Philippines conflict, the Prime Minister said the leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Murad Ebrahim, met him before he signed the peace agreement to get his views.

"He (Murad) came secretly to see me in the middle of the night and asked "to sign or not", I said "sign", which was our chance to achieve peace as we do not want hundreds of thousands more people killed.

"If I had said don't sign, he would not sign," Najib said, adding that based on the principle of Wasatiyyah, Malaysia played a big role, saving thousands of innocent lives.

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