

No visa fee hike for Malaysians visiting India, says Najib
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Prime Minister says six-month tourist visa option will remain at RM180.

PETALING JAYA: Following the furore over an announcement on the Indian High Commission's website on the new fees for an Indian tourist visa, Prime Minister Najib Razak has reassured that the old rate of RM180 for a six-month tourist visa will remain, The Star reported.

Responding to questions during a function in New Delhi last night, Najib said there will be no visa fee increase for Malaysians who wish to visit India.

"What India has done is to introduce a new category of visas which will last for a year.

"The existing six-month visa fee for Malaysians is retained. There is no truth that the visa fee has been increased," he was quoted as saying by the daily.

Najib was at a reception for Malaysian and Indian businessmen in the Indian capital last night.

Currently, Indian visitors to Malaysia are allowed to stay for up to 15 days without a visa.

It was reported yesterday that tour companies had voiced out against the new tourist visa fees for Malaysians wanting to visit India being increased by 153%.

Previously, Malaysian visitors to India had to pay RM180 for a six-month visa. However, the new fees listed on the Indian High Commission website had no option for a six-month visa, with a one-year tourist visa costing RM456.

India's High Commissioner to Malaysia TS Tirumurti also confirmed late yesterday that the present visa rate for six months will be maintained.

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