

Najib, Zahid Join Special Prayer For Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA, March 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today joined a congregation of over 8,000 at the Putra Mosque here to perform the 'solat hajat' (special prayer), to pray for the safety and wellbeing of Malaysia, which is now in a tense diplomatic spat with North Korea.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom.

The special prayer, which followed the Friday prayer, was led by Putra Mosque Grand Imam Datuk Abd Manaf Mat.

Yesterday, Najib called on all mosques in the country to hold the special prayer for the safety of Malaysians in North Korea.

Nine Malaysians including three officers from the Malaysian Embassy in Pyongyang are currently stranded there after the North Korean government banned all Malaysian citizens from leaving the republic.

The ban came about after Malaysia declared North Korean ambassador Kang Chol as persona non grata, leading to his expulsion from the country.

Two other Malaysians - Stella Lim and Nyanaprakash Muniandy - who participated in the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations (UN) were allowed to leave Pyongyang and had safely arrived in Beijing, China.

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