

Najib Receives Courtesy Call From Somalia DPM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Thursday received a courtesy call from Somalia Deputy Prime Minister, Mohamed Omer Arteh, who is on his maiden visit to Malaysia.

The meeting, which began at 8.45am, lasted about 20 minutes, where both leaders took the opportunity to discuss various current issues.

Speaking to reporters after the courtesy call, Mohamed Arteh expressed his gratitude and thanked Najib for his time for the meeting and Malaysia in general for its contribution to Somalia.

"The generosity that has been given to us, I really thank him (Najib) for that, and thanks also to organizations in this country that have contributed to Somalia.

"I also like to thank Malaysians for the way they had welcomed the Somalis students here, and also the government of Malaysia for giving the support and everything that they (students) need here," he said.

Mohamed Omer is currently on a working visit to Malaysia from March 9 until today. This is also his first visit to Malaysia since being appointed as Somalia's deputy prime minister in February 2015.

Yesterday, he also called on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein at the Parliament building here.

Following the meeting with Ahmad Zahid, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office issued a statement, indicating that Malaysia would be channelling humanitarian aid such as food

and medicines to Somalia through non-governmental organisations and political parties in this country.

Malaysia is also prepared to cooperate with the World Food Programme of the United Nations in assisting Somalia in dealing with its food crisis following the drought problem in that country since three years ago.

Additionally, Malaysia would also consider providing micro credit assistance to the hardcore poor and low-income group in that country, according to the statement.

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