

Successful Saudi Arabia Working Visit, Says Najib

From Jamaluddin Muhammad

RIYADH, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has concluded his three-day working visit to this country as successful as it has put Malaysia in the forefront of combating violent extremism and terrorism.

He said Malaysia was among the 10 nations given the role in the development and operation of the Riyadh-based Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology apart from, among others, Saudi Arabia and United States.

Malaysia, he said, was among the five nations besides Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait and Indonesia given the honour to address the Arab-Islamic-US Summit at the King Abdulaziz International Convention Centre here Sunday.

In further substantiating his point, Malaysia was also given the front row seats among more than 50 Muslim countries at the meeting, he told Malaysian media, here at the end of his three days visit.

The prime minister said Malaysia has been recognised as a moderate, progressive and striving for excellence Muslim nation.

Najib said the Riyadh summit has formed a new strategic partnership between Muslim countries and the United States in the fight against the two menaces.

He said President Donald Trump has promoted the principle of realism when engaging with Muslim countries towards this end by not interfering in their respective internal affairs but ask for their greater commitment in rooting out the violent extremism in their respective country.

Najib said Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud also stressed that the enemies of the US was not Islam and Muslim countries, but extremists and terrorists, and the bigger victims were the Muslims.

Asked on the mood of the meeting considering that Trump was reportedly associated with anti-Muslim stand during his election campaign, Najib said the Muslim leaders acknowledged the situation have changed when the election candidate become a president as his words and actions had vast impact on the US and the rest of the world.

Najib said he was also touched by the warmth showed by King Salman towards him as he did not expect to be feted with sumptuous lunch attended by Saudi Arabia royal families and cabinet members when he had an audience with the monarch Monday.

During the visit, Najib also met his Libyan counterpart Fayez Al-Serraj and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of the summit Sunday.

Najib together with King Salman, Trump and Muslim leaders attended the inauguration of the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology here, aimed at addressing extremism and terrorism through the cyberspace, after the summit.

The prime minister also attended the Tweeps 2017, an event focuses on how people can utilize social media networks for social good and to counter extremism and terrorism, at a hotel here Sunday.

Najib departed Riyadh Monday.

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