

Najib Asks Mosques To Hold Special Prayers For Malaysians In North Korea

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has requested all mosques in the country to hold special prayers for the safety of Malaysians in North Korea.

"I have asked mosques in the country to perform 'solat hajat' (special prayers), to pray for our people in North Korea. May Allah ease our affairs," he said in his Twitter account today.

Nine Malaysians including three officers from the embassy in Pyongyang are currently stranded at the airport 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.

Prior to this, the state news agency, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), reported that Pyongyang's decision to prevent Malaysian citizens from leaving the country would be effective for as long as Kim Jong-nam's murder case in Kuala Lumpur is not properly solved.

Kim Chol has been widely reported to be Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Earlier, Najib said all Malaysian citizens including officers and staff of the Malaysian embassy and their family members in Pyongyang were safe and free to do their daily activities as usual.

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