

**Najib fulfils promise to bring home citizens from N Korea**  
**Free Malaysia Today**  
**March 31, 2017**

**Foreign Minister Anifah Aman says this success is proof of what Malaysia can achieve if everyone works as a team.**

SEPANG: Prime Minister Najib Razak fulfilled his promise to bring home the nine Malaysian citizens barred from leaving North Korea, says Foreign Minister Anifah Aman.

He said that at the beginning of this unfortunate episode, the prime minister had promised this to the embassy staff and their families who were understandably worried about their safety in Pyongyang.

He noted that Najib had also promised that the government would do all it could to bring the Malaysians back and would expend every resource and effort to ensure their safety and well-being.

“The prime minister was involved directly and had followed closely every step of the way in the negotiations that brought about the release of the nine Malaysians.

“Today, that promise has been fulfilled,” he told a press conference after receiving the nine Malaysians at the Bunga Raya Complex, in KLIA here.

Anifah also thanked Najib for placing his trust in Wisma Putra to lead the negotiations with North Korea.

In doing so, he said the prime minister placed his trust in diplomacy.

“Alhamdulillah, I am glad that we did not let him (Najib) down, and that his trust in us was well placed. Certainly, this is diplomacy at its best.

“I have said that there can be no substitute for diplomacy, for level-headedness in dealing with such situations, and this has served Malaysia well in this instance,” he said.

Anifah said the success in bringing home the nine Malaysians was a team effort.

“This success is proof of what Malaysia can achieve if we all work together as a team.

“The success is not (by) Wisma Putra alone... this success would not have been possible without the cooperation of every single facet of the government machinery,” he said.

Nine Malaysians, comprising three embassy staff and their family members, were prohibited from leaving North Korea since March 7 following tensions between

Malaysia and North Korea in the aftermath of the murder of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, here last Feb 13.

The diplomatic spat erupted after then North Korean ambassador to Malaysia, Kang Chol, made baseless allegations against Malaysia over its handling of the case, resulting in Malaysia declaring him persona non grata. The ambassador left Kuala Lumpur on March 6.

North Korea retaliated by expelling Malaysia's ambassador in Pyongyang.

The next day, North Korea prohibited Malaysians in Pyongyang from leaving North Korea and Malaysia reciprocated by not allowing North Koreans here to leave as well.

**Copyright (C) 2009-2016 MToday News Sdn. Bhd. All Rights Reserved.**

Source: <http://www.freemalysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/03/31/najib-fulfils-promise-to-bring-home-citizens-from-n-korea/>