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Netanyahu apologizes to Arabs for voter turnout remark

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday apologized to the Arab citizens of Israel for comments he made about their voting turnout on election day that were sharply criticized as being potentially racist and offensive to the community. "I know the things I said several days ago offended some of Israel's citizens, hurt the Arab citizens," Netanyahu told representatives of the Arab community during at the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem. "This was never my intent. I apologize for this." The apology was met with enthusiastic applause from the Arab representatives, several of whom embraced him after the statement. According to The Times of Israel, he added that he saw himself "as the prime minister of each and every one of you, all the citizens of Israel, regardless of faith, ethnicity or gender."