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AGONG SENDS GREETINGS TO LAOS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja`afar, and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah today sent greetings to Laos President Nouhak Phoumsavanh on the occasion of the Indochinese state's national day.

"We are pleased to note that the cordial relations and close cooperation between our two countries have continued to expand and develop over the years," Tuanku Ja'afar said in a statement released by Wisma Putra, here.

He wished Phoumsavanh continued good health, progress and prosperity of the Laotian people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad congratulated and extended his best wishes to his counterpart, Khamtay Siphandone.

"I look forward to working closely with you in promoting closer ties and cooperation between our two countries that would benefit our peoples in the years ahead," he said.

In a similar message to Laos Foreign Affairs Minister, Somsavat Lengsavad, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to further enhance bilateral cooperation and advance the interests of Asean. -- BERNAMA

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