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Agong-Brunei

KING: VAST OPPORTUNITIES FOR M'SIA-BRUNEI TEAM-UP

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Brunei still have before them vast and untapped potentials for developing new areas of cooperation namely in high-technology industries, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar said tonight.

The opportunities also availed themselves in the form of Malaysia-Brunei joint ventures in development projects in third countries, his majesty said.

Tuanku Ja'afar was speaking at a state banquet at Istana Negara here in honour of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, who arrived earlier in the day to begin a four-day state visit.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, the Sultan's two wives, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were present.

Tuanku Ja'afar said those potential undertakings would be in line with the national aspirations of both countries to bring about greater prosperity and well-being of their peoples.

Tuanku Ja'afar hoped Brunei would give due consideration to initiatives proposed by the Malaysian private sector especially those discussed under the BIMP and EAGA growth regions.

(BIMP - Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines and EAGA - East Asean Growth Area).

His majesty said being influential members of Asean - the nine-member regional grouping - Malaysia and Brunei could play key roles towards bringing regional peace and stability.

On the international front, Tuanku Ja'afar expressed confidence that Malaysia and Brunei could join hands in alleviating the hardships of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Palestinians.

The King expressed optimism that the visit by the Sultan and entourage would be a catalyst in enhancing trade and economic cooperation between Brunei and Malaysia.

The visit clearly symbolised the traditionally close ties between Malaysia and Brunei on the basis of shared historical, racial, lingual, cultural, and religious heritage, Tuanku Ja'afar said.

These are premises, coupled with determined efforts by both countries to strike cooperation in all fields, on which future Malaysia-Brunei relations would be further consolidated, the King said.

"It is the Malaysian government's policy to earnestly continue working hand-in-hand with Brunei Darusalam to attain progress and bring about development," he said.

Tuanku Ja'afar added that with a strong bond of brotherhood and camaraderie both Malaysia and Brunei could overcome obstacles for their common good.

In his reply, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah said that he was impressed with the successes achieved by Malaysia not only in the economic aspect but also in the field of information technology.

He was confident that with the rate of progress achieved so far, Malaysia would be able to achieve further progress through the Multimedia Super Corridor.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation for efforts by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in forging closer ties between the two

countries.

"Efforts to further enhance understanding and friendship have enabled both countries to overcome differences in a friendly environment," he said.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah said that he was happy that the government of Malaysia had provided opportunities for Bruneians to take part in its various economic sectors and establish joint ventures with the country's private sector.

He said that Brunei was optimistic they could forge ahead together based on their common language, history, faith and culture.

On regional cooperation, he said that world and regional peace and stability was a common agenda of both countries.

He said that Brunei and Malaysia welcomed the expansion of the Asean family with the admission of Myanmar and Laos last month.

Like Malaysia, he said, Brunei views Asean as a major force to achieve regional political and economic cooperation.

He said that in fact, the future of Asean members depended on the strength and dynamism of the regional grouping itself.

"Brunei will contribute towards world and regional peace and stability," he added. -- BERNAMA

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