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Bolkiah-Meeting

MALAYSIA AND BRUNEI AGREE TO MEET EVERY YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Brunei have agreed that there be a regular meeting between the heads of the two governments every year, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said this was proposed by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei at a bilateral meeting here today in conjunction with his four-day visit to Malaysia.

The Malaysian delegation was led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah said the two leaders acknowledged the benefits of a regular meeting and agreed that both countries take turns in hosting it. Next year's meeting will be held in Bandar Sri Begawan.

The annual meeting would discuss bilateral ties and cooperation at the macro level, he told reporters after today's hour-long meeting.

Abdullah said the Malaysia-Brunei Joint Commission would continue to meet every year to discuss details and technical matters in relation to the decisions reached at the meetings between their leaders.

He said that although Malaysia and Brunei did not have any major bilateral problems, the two leaders felt that regular meetings between senior officers, ministers and heads of governments of the two countries would further boost understanding and relations.

"With this it will be easier for us to deal with any matter concerning bilateral ties between Malaysia and Brunei. If such a spirit is not there..it (relation) will be more difficult," he said.

Apart from Dr Mahathir and Abdullah, the Malaysian delegation at today's meeting included Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, who is the minister-in-attendance.

The Brunei side included Pengiran Muda Jefri Bolkiah, Industry and Primary Resources Minister Datuk Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman Mohd Taib and High Commissioner to Malaysia Pengiran Mohd Yusof Abdul Rahim.

This is Sultan Bolkiah's first official visit to Malaysia since 1992.

-- BERNAMA

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