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Pakistan-Malaysia

PAKISTAN EMBARKING ON ITS OWN LOOK EAST POLICY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said his country has embarked on a "Look East Policy" to increase its interaction with the East Asian region.

Acknowledging Malaysia's significant role in East Asia's pre-eminence, he said Pakistan would also like to make constructive contributions to the various forums in the region.

"East Asia has already emerged, as a consequence of phenomenal growth, as the third pillar on which the post-Cold War structure is likely to be built," he said at a banquet hosted in his honour by his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Sri Perdana here tonight.

The Pakistani leader arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit to Malaysia aimed at consolidating economic ties between the two nations.

Saying that Pakistan-Malaysia ties were characterised by deep friendship, Nawaz wanted the two countries to build a significantly enlarged relationship on solid foundations of common perceptions on pressing issues and affinities of culture, religion and heritage.

He invited Malaysia's corporate sector to become Pakistan's partners in its national endeavour, saying that liberal economic policies and lucrative incentives have transformed Pakistan into an investor's paradise.

"My government has launched a Vision 2010 Programme to achieve our economic targets," Nawaz said.

Pakistan has the benefit of a fairly well developed infrastructure, abundance of raw materials, skill labour, industrial base and a large market, he said.

Nawaz said the economic miracle of Malaysia that has made the country the pride of the Islamic world has been brought about by Malaysia's leadership and its commitment to the cause of the people.

He said political stability has provided the environment for economic growth and has transformed Malaysia into a strong and vibrant nation which he was confident would be able to overcome the challenges of the future.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Begum Kulsoom as well as several ministers and businessmen from both countries.

-- BERNAMA

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