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Vietnam-Relations

VIETNAM REAFFIRMS POLICY FOR GREATER COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 16 (Bernama) -- Vietnam tonight reaffirmed its policy to develop friendship, good neighbourliness and multi-faceted cooperation with Malaysia on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong said that over the years Vietnam and Malaysia had observed fine development in friendship and multi-faceted cooperation.

Speaking at a state banquet in his honour at Istana Negara, here, he said the two countries had concluded many agreements in various areas such as economic, trade, investment, scientific and technological cooperation.

Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Ali were present.

Also present were Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

Luong said that since economic cooperation was becoming a primarily important area in intra-Asean cooperation, especially in view of the regional financial and currency crisis, Vietnam and Malaysia needed to step up the areas of cooperation tantamount to the existing fine political cooperation between the two countries.

"Our two countries still have great potentials which can be explored further so as to make full use of each country's advantages within the framework of the Asean market as well as international market," he added.

Luong said the Vietnamese people always held in high regard every international cooperation and assistance extended to them in the cause of nation building and development, especially in regional and international integration.

"During the process of renewal, especially since Vietnam became a full member of Asean, we have enjoyed the wholehearted support and cooperation from other member countries, among which the cooperation and assistance from Malaysia are highly appreciated," he said. -- BERNAMA

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