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Dr M, Zhu exchange greetings on 25th anniversary of ties

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has sent greetings to China's Premier Zhu Rongji, on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said the two countries had charted solid progress in the development of bilateral relations in the last 25 years.

"During these years, we have nurtured a close relationship, built upon mutual understanding, co-operation and friendship," he said in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry.

"(This is) reflected in the frequent high-level exchanges between our two countries, the substantial growth of two-way trade and investment, the increased interactions between our two peoples, the expansion of co-operation into new areas such as tourism and education, as well as the excellent co-operation existing between the two countries at the regional and international levels."

"The development of a long term and stable bilateral relationship is in our shared interest. I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for the peace, progress and prosperity of the People's Republic of China."

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar in a message to his Chinese counterpart, Tang Jiaxuan, said bilateral relations had "reached a new level of understanding and co-operation in various substantive areas of mutual interest."

"Our mutual commitment towards peace and development have led to greater regional collaboration amongst countries in the region," he said.

In his message to Dr Mahathir, Zhu said China was ready to make joint efforts with Malaysia to keep up the momentum of development of bilateral relations and co-operation in all fields.

For the benefit and prosperity of both countries, and for regional peace and stability, the Chinese side was ready to make such efforts, he said. The message was released by the Chinese Embassy here.

He said the establishment of diplomatic relations had opened a new chapter for friendship and co-operation.

"Over these years, abiding by the spirit enshrined in the Joint Communique on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, both countries have treated each other sincerely and lived together in amity," he said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan sent a similar message to Syed Hamid.

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