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China-Relations

MALAYSIA-CHINA RELATIONS AT ITS BEST NOW

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- China-Malaysia bilateral relations are at its best now, said visiting Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji today.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhu Bangzao, who briefed the media on the delegation meeting between the premier and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said that Zhu Rongji also expressed his view that his visit would further promote existing relations.

"Premier Zhu said that bilateral relations have developed smoothly over the years and is at its best at the moment. He said Malaysia has become China's close friend in South East Asia," the spokesperson said.

Zhu Bangzao said the Chinese Premier also expressed great appreciation to Dr Mahathir for his important contribution to the China-Malaysia relationship.

"Our Premier hoped that through this visit, the good momentum in the bilateral relations can be maintained and cooperation can be deepened," he said.

Zhu Bangzao said the two leaders agreed on the view that in the past 25 years of diplomatic ties, the two countries had witnessed continued progress in many fields.

"Dr Mahathir also emphasised that Malaysia and China have much in common on many issues and aspects which enabled us to have common cooperation in various fields and on international affairs. He also reaffirmed that Malaysia will continue to pursue a policy of strongly supporting One China," he said.

Zhu Bangzao said Dr Mahathir had commended China for its new way of promoting economic development and appreciated China's role of maintaining a strong currency amidst the Asian financial crisis.

He said the Chinese Premier also expressed his view that the two countries continue to pursue and enhance cooperation in the fields of science, education, trade and technology.

"At the moment, the very close political relations served as a good condition for the two sides to strengthen economic and trade cooperation," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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