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Ramos urges continued enhancement of ties

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Malaysia and the Philippines should never be satisfied with the status quo of the ties between the two countries but continue to enhance relations, said former Philippines President Fidel Ramos today.

"We should continue to strengthen, promote and expand bilateral ties."

One of the immediate programmes the Philippines planned to undertake was renewal and expansion programmes in common areas for the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

BIMP-EAGA was initiated in 1993 to open new avenues and opportunities for economic, social and cultural exchange among the sponsoring four countries.

"Of course the activities within EAGA was slowed down during the economic turmoil," he said after paying a courtesy call on Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today.

"But since this is the common market of some 45 million people, Philippines feels that these activities must be reinforced at this time when the economy is recovering."

Ramos who is the chairman of Ramos Peace and Development Foundation is on a visit to the country at the invitation of Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob for a series of discussions to promote stronger ties in economic development, investment, trade, tourism, education and culture between Malaysia and the Philippines.

Ramos will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putrajaya on Wednesday.

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