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China checking out halal products in Kedah

ALOR STAR, Mon. - A trade delegation from China will visit Kedah next month to look into the possibility of importing Malaysian halal meat and food products.

Chinese ambassador Hu Zhengyue said the market for halal food in China was tremendous considering the fact that country had a Muslim population of more than 20 million.

"The number of Muslims in China is far more than the population here and that is why there is a great market for halal products," he said after paying a courtesy call on Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain at Wisma Darulaman here today.

Zhengyue had an audience with the Sultan of Kedah earlier, followed by a visit to the birthplace of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Zhengyue was accompanied by the Chinese Embassy's first secretary, Ma Mingqiang, and third secretary Liu Jianlin.

They are in Kedah on a three-day official visit.

Zhengyue was impressed with the management and facilities at the Halal Food Hub at Paya Pahlawan, which is a joint venture between the State Government and Aman Agro-preneurs Sdn Bhd.

They are also expected to visit the Kulim Hi-Tech Park in Kulim, the Pulau Payar marine park and Langkawi.

He said the trade delegation would look into other agricultural business interests in Kedah such as the integrated tiger prawn farming project in Kerpan.

Zhengyue said the Chinese Government placed great emphasis on the agriculture sector although the country was moving towards industrialisation.

Meanwhile, Syed Razak said Muslims from China should consider transiting at the Sultan Abdul Hamid airport in Kepala Batas when haj flights are introduced there.

He said there were plans for haj flights at the airport when expansion work at the terminal and runway extension was completed.