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Agong-Cambodia

COOPERATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CAMBODIA BRINGS TANGIBLE BENEFITS

By: Siti Aishah Mohamad

PHNOM PENH, Dec 16 (Bernama) - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail said the cooperation between Malaysia and Cambodia in various areas such as education, economics and information has brought both sides tangible benefits to their peoples.

He said the bilateral relations had improved significantly since the first state visit on Dec 2, 1996.

"This is evident from the increased exchange of high-level visits and people-to-people contacts between our countries," he said in his return speech at the royal banquet hosted by Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk at the Banquet Hall of the Royal Palace here tonight.

Also present were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Cambodian Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, who is the minister-in-attendance.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin hoped that his three-day state visit to Cambodia would contribute to further strengthening the existing close and friendly ties between Malaysia and Cambodia.

He congratulated the Cambodian government for all its achievements and continued efforts in realising the kingdom's development vision of having a socially cohesive, educationally advanced and culturally vibrant Cambodia.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin also congratulated the Cambodian government for successfully convening the Eighth Asean Summit Meeting in Phnom Penh, only three and half years after the kingdom became the newest member of Asean.

"It is also delightful to note that Phnom Penh will be remembered in ASEAN's history as the first venue of ASEAN-India Summit.

"We are confident that in the spirit of promoting greater cooperation, Malaysia, Cambodia and other Asean members will strive forward and reap the profits of our collective efforts," he said.

He said he was proud of the active role played by Cambodia and Malaysia in the regional and the international issues.

Meanwhile, King Sihanouk expressed his gratitude for the very important state visit, which reinforces the traditional ties of friendship uniting the two countries.

He said Cambodians have a deep admiration for the huge efforts made by Malaysians for the impressive general development and constant progress achieved in all areas of the edification of Malaysia, under the leadership of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We like to pay a vibrant tribute to Malaysia, especially Dr Mahathir who played such a beneficial role in the peace process, the return of Cambodia to sovereignty and national unity, after more than two decades of war and tragedy," the King said.

He added that the multi-faceted Khmer-Malaysian cooperation is exemplary both within the framework of the bilateral relations as well as that of Asean.

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