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DEFENCE MINISTRY TO HAVE MOU WITH CHINA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Seri Najib Tun Razak said Malaysia will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence matters with China after studying the guidelines on cooperation that can be forged between the two countries.

Najib, who received the guidelines on the MoU from Chief of Defence Forces Tan Sri Mohamed Zahid Hamidi today, said they included stepping up visits, exchange of information and defence cooperation.

"This is the first initiative in the field of defence between the two countries. It is still being studied before we sign it," he said after receiving the Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, General L. Liang Guang Lie, at his office here.

Najib said relations in the field of defence between the two countries was focused more on visits by military leaders, friendly visits by ships, international exhibitions and stationing Malaysian defence officers in Beijing and vice versa.

"After seeing the success in cooperation with China in the fields of politics, economy, education, especially politics where there are many similarities in their views on international politics, we expressed our intention to develop ties in defence like in other fields," he said.

The 12-member delegation from the PLA arrived here on Thursday for a weeklong visit.

They met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya today and had also visited the Air Force Academy.

-- BERNAMA

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