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Tunisa-Malaysia

MALAYSIAN APPOINTED AS FIRST TUNISIAN HONORARY CONSUL

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- A local company managing director, Peter Sze Tian Keng, has been appointed as Tunisia's first Honorary Consul to Malaysia today.

Sze, 51, managing director of Penedar Bahan Pertanian Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Malaysian tycoon Tan Sri Robert Kuok's company, received his letter of appointment from the Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister, Habib Ben Yahia, at a simple ceremony at a local hotel here.

The letter of appointment was from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Ben Yahia, who is here for the 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Putrajaya, said in his speech at the function that Sze was to assist the country's Ambassador to Malaysia, Mohamed Mouldi Kefi, who is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He said the decision to appoint the Honorary Consul in Malaysia was to enhance the existing bilateral relations between both the countries in all fields, especially trade, education and tourism.

Tunisia, a Mediterranean nation in north Africa, could become an important gateway for Malaysian products to the European market, he said.

Ben Yahia said with the establishment of the Honorary Consul, he hoped relations between both countries would expand to all levels rather than just only at Ministerial level.

Furthermore, he said, Malaysia and Tunisia shared similar views on Islam and both were modern and moderate Islamic countries.

Ben Yahia also praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a modern and moderate Islamic leader which has developed Malaysia into a modern and stable Islamic country.

"He has done a wonderful job, especially in developing Malaysia as an advanced Islamic country," he said.

-- BERNAMA
NER AHH SRI