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PRIME NEWS

Najib visit to boost ties with Turkey

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OPPORTUNITIES:
Transformation programmes a boon to both countries

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MALAYSIA and Turkey will benefit from excellent bilateral ties to be solidified by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's two-day visit to Turkey.

Malaysian ambassador to Turkey Amran Mohamed Zin said the two countries, which will sign a free trade agreement (FTA) today, had a good relationship, but realised the potential of boosting relations to capitalise on the benefits brought about by both nations' transformation programmes.

The programmes, he said, had given rise to a multitude of opportunities for each country to tap.

"The FTA is among the most important enabling factors to achieve this.

"We are confident that Najib's visit to Turkey will boost bilateral ties, including exploring opportunities in various fields that both countries can offer to each other," he said here yesterday.

Malaysia is Turkey's fifth-largest

investor among the Far Eastern economies, with the country's approved investments in Turkey standing at US\$527 million (RM1.7 billion) last year, while Turkey's investments in Malaysia stood at US\$106.22 million.

Bilateral trade between the countries stood at US\$1.1 billion last year, a jump from US\$100 million in 2012.

Najib, who was expected to arrive this morning, will hold meetings with key delegate members and attend a dinner hosted by the Malaysian embassy today.

Tomorrow, Najib, on his second visit to Turkey since 2011, will have a hectic schedule, with a highlight being him delivering a lecture on "Turkey-Malaysia Strategic Partnership In a Globalising Asia" at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, a think tank in Turkey.

Najib, who is accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Rpsmah Mansor, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, will also deliver a keynote address at a Malaysia-Turkey business luncheon hosted by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, which represents 1.4 million private firms

from 365 business chambers in Turkey.

"These are significant forums for Najib to update the Turkish and Malaysian business communities on Malaysia's economy, economic potential and potential partnership opportunities," said Amran.

Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Eyyap Sabun Malaysia Sdn Bhd for the latter to use 1,000 tonnes per day of palm oils supplied by FGV.

Felda Global Ventures - Cambridge Nanosystems Ltd will also sign an MoU with Nanokomp Ileri Teknoloji Malzemeleri Arge Dan Ins San Tic Ltd to explore the distribution of graphene and nanotube products.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia is expected to ink memoranda of understanding with Hacettepe University and Ankara University.

Najib and Rosmah will pay a courtesy call on Turkish President Abdullah Gul at the Cankaya presidential palace.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan will hold a welcoming ceremony for Najib and his entourage later in the day.

The two leaders are expected to hold a joint press conference before Najib returns to Kuala Lumpur.



Amran Mohamed Zin says there are many opportunities that both nations can offer to each other