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Najib receives courtesy call from Indonesia official

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday received a courtesy call from Indonesia's Regional Representative Council chairman, Irman Gusman, in Putrajaya yesterday.

Indonesia's ambassador to Malaysia, Herman Prayitno, said the meeting strengthened the ties be-

tween both nations.

He said issues discussed included the need to stabilise the price of crude palm oil, introduction of more "sister cities" between Indonesia and Malaysia, and revival of the Malacca Straits Bridge project, connecting Dumai and Malacca.

"The meeting also saw the dis-

cussion of security and border issues," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He said both leaders expressed high expectations of the agreement between Proton Holdings Berhad and PT Adiperkasa Citra Lestari to produce the first Asean car.

The landmark deal was one of the major breakthroughs in the maiden

visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo to Malaysia earlier this month.

Irman had met Dewan Negara president Tan Sir Abu Zahar Ujang on Monday to discuss issues involving language, culture and the economy.

He said Malaysia and Indonesia

would work to make Bahasa Malaysia a lingua franca in the region.

"The language has the potential to be known internationally, as it is spoken by 600 million people worldwide, namely those in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore," Irman was quoted as saying.