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Najib: We'll keep playing role in SSC

Malaysia's commitment real and is showing results, says PM

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Sixty years on: Najib and Rosmah participating in the 'Historical Walk' with (fourth left to right) chairwoman of the ruling Indonesian Democratic Party Megawati Sukarnoputri. Xi and wife Peng Liyuan, Joko and wife Iriana, Indonesia's vice-president Jusuf Kalla and wife Muhdiah and Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen. - EPA

BANDUNG: Malaysia will continue to play its role in assisting members of the South-South Cooperation (SSC) in various fields, especially in technical areas.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the country's major contributions were in training under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and investments in SSC countries.

"For example, our entrepreneurs have opened university branches and invested in manufacturing, housing and basic infrastructure and so on," he told Malaysian reporters after attending the "Historical Walk" here yesterday.

South-South Cooperation is a term used by policymakers and academics to describe the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge between developing countries.

At the same time, Najib said when Malaysian companies expanded and went regional or global, they would be able to penetrate the markets of SSC countries.

Malaysia's participation in the Asian-African Conference, he said, was significant - not only symbolically but by proving that the meaning of the Bandung Declaration, its principles and spirit were still relevant.

"But now, it has become a challenge - not only for developed countries but South-South countries in the context of combating threats of terrorism, extremism, extreme militants, climate change and disaster management while promoting cooperation in education, human capital development and so on," he said.

Najib said the spirit of Bandung, founded 60 years ago, was still relevant.

"There is one more that has not been achieved. If we were to look

back at the Bandung Conference 60 years ago - which was to fight imperialism and colonialism - all countries have become independent, except the Palestinians.

"So, I consider it as something we must continue. Malaysia's stand is firm and I am very proud that all who spoke earlier gave their support to the struggle of the Palestinians,"

he said.

Earlier, Najib took part in the Historical Walk, the highlight of the 60th Asian-African Conference Commemoration (AACC) and 10th Asian African Strategic Partnership held here.

Najib and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor were at the front-line together with Indonesian

President Joko Widodo and several heads of state, members of Parliament and AACC representatives.

They walked about 50m from the Savoy Homann Bidakara Hotel to the Gedung Merdeka Bandung, where they entered the hall for a keynote address from Joko.

China's President Xi Jinping and

his wife, King of Swaziland Mswati III, Timor Leste President Taur Matan Ruak and Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe were among the other heads of state taking part.

Najib then performed Friday prayers with Joko and other Muslim delegates at Raya Bandung Mosque before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

- Bernama