

Newspaper	THE SUN
Date	11 NOVEMBER 2016



BERNAMAPIX

Najib welcomes Duterte at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. Duterte arrived on Wednesday for a two-day official visit.

## Najib, Duterte discuss setting up of East Asean Growth office

*The Sun - 11/11/2016*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia and the Philippines will work together to find a practical solution to enable the setting up of a regional office in Kota Kinabalu for the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) sub-regional grouping, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said although the opening of the office had earlier been agreed to by BIMP-EAGA members, its implementation had to be postponed due to the Philippines' claim on Sabah.

"We are setting aside the issue of the claim, but we are looking into finding a practical solution to enable the office to be opened.

"President Duterte has agreed, and has instructed his officers to find a practical solution so that this BIMP-EAGA office can be opened," he said after a bilateral meeting with his Filipino counterpart here yesterday.

BIMP-EAGA was launched in Davao City, the Philippines, on March 24, 1994, covering the entire sultanate of Brunei, the provinces of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, West Papua and Papua in Indonesia, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan Federal Territory in Malaysia and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines, Bernama reported.

On business opportunities, Najib said the Philippines has agreed to offer areas to Malaysian companies for oil palm cultivation in southern Philippines.