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# Ties in all sectors are good

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## Najib and Brunei Ruler want maximum returns from O&G investment

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia and Brunei want their respective national petroleum companies to see how best they can commercialise recent oil and gas finds to maximise their investment returns.

Both Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah want Petronas and Petroleum Brunei to explore the most commercially viable opportunity following recent discoveries in Block CA2 in the South China Sea.

Besides collaboration in oil and gas, they want work to be expedited to conclude the joint demarcation and survey of the land boundary between the two countries, particularly in the joint priority areas.

Other matters that are being pursued are maritime co-operation, increase in connectivity via the Pan Borneo highway and collaboration between Malaysia and Brunei's small and medium enterprises.

These are some of the issues raised during a four-eyed meeting between Najib and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah during the 20th Annual Leaders Consultation, which also saw the two countries entering another area of co-operation – the field of green technology.

On oil and gas, the leaders were



**In deep discussion:** Najib and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah exchanging views before the start of their annual meeting in Putrajaya.

pleased with the continued progress made by Petronas and Petroleum Brunei in the commercial arrangement areas in Blocks CA1 and CA2, production sharing agreements in Blocks N and Q and their collaboration with Canada and Myanmar.

“Both leaders also encouraged Petronas and Petroleum Brunei, together with Brunei's Energy and Industry Department of the Prime Minister's Office to enhance collaboration to set up an offshore hub.

“This is to support the development of hydrocarbon resources

from Block CA2 to ensure sustainable gas production in Brunei,” according to a statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

On the joint demarcation, the leaders were pleased with the progress of the technical teams and the work done to carry out joint demarcation and survey of the land boundary between Malaysia and Brunei, wanting work on this to be fast tracked.

Najib and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah also want discussions on the Pan Borneo Highway network to commence, noting that improvement in

connectivity would accelerate economic and social growth.

The highway project, with a distance of 2,325km from Telok Melano to Lawas in Sarawak and from Sindumin to Tawau in Sabah, is expected to be completed by 2021.

Earlier, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who was accompanied by Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha, was given a royal welcome at Dataran Putra where he inspected a guard of honour mounted by 106 personnel and officers from the Royal Malay Regiment led by Mejar Riduan Basir.