

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	06 APRIL 2017

MULTI-FACETED COOPERATION

'MALAYSIA-INDIA TIES AT ALL-TIME HIGH'

NY- 6/4/2017

Modi believes ties can go higher, which shows he is bullish about relationship, says Najib



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MALAYSIA-INDIA ties have evolved into an all-time high, multi-faceted and strategic cooperation.

These were narratives Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak used to describe the comprehensive outcome of his six-day state visit to India, which ended on Tuesday.

"It is timely as both nations reach 60 years of ties.

"All the efforts all these while have brought ties to an all-time high," he said at a press conference at the High Commission complex on Tuesday night.

Buoyed by the enormous success of securing US\$36 billion (RM159 billion) worth of investments, Najib said his sentiment that Malaysia and India were at the peak of their relationship was also shared by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"When I tweeted that ties were at an all-time high, Modi responded with a tweet to say that it is set to go even higher.

"It shows that Modi is very bullish about our bilateral ties."

Out of the total, US\$32.13 billion are investments in Malaysia,

while the remaining is for projects in India.

Among the significant deals are the integrated maritime city deal of Carey Island Port between MMC Port Holdings Sdn Bhd, Sime Darby Property Bhd and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd worth US\$22.78 billion for a 30-year period, and Carey Island Port Project between MMC and Adani worth US\$9.39 billion.

The memoranda of understanding are related to port and highway construction, solar power plant, development of smart city and technology park, regasification terminal project, coconut and palm oil development, and higher education.

There may be more good news as four more projects are being negotiated, including the Mumbai Coastal Expressway, Mumbai Seafront Development, Floating Storage and Regasification Terminal at a port in Andhra Pradesh and the smart cities mission.

Najib said Malaysia stood a good chance of securing the four projects.

He added that he had received



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at a press conference on the last day of his visit to India in New Delhi on Tuesday. BERNAMA PIC

a Letter of Intent from Topworth Group and Samarth Group to invest US\$380 million in Malaysia.

Samarth Group, which manufactures critical medical products, plans to invest US\$80 million in Iskandar Malaysia, Johor, while Topworth, which produces aluminium foil for medicine packaging, wants to invest US\$300 million in Bintulu, Sarawak.

Several Malaysian firms are also bidding for the 3,000km construction work in Rajasthan, with four bids made in February and March, while two others are expected to be made by mid-year.

Najib said Malaysia aimed to reach US\$15 billion in bilateral trade with India within years.

India, he said, was also keen on acquiring Malaysia's counterterrorism expertise, including its deradicalisation programme.

Malaysia will also be allocated an additional 1,861 seats a week for flights to Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Najib's successful trip to India comes on the back of visits by Saudi ruler King Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud and French President Francois Hollande.

Saudi Arabia had, among others, agreed to inject RM31.08 billion in investments by Saudi Arabian petroleum company, Saudi Aramco, in the Refinery and Petrochemical Integrated Development in Pengerang, Johor.

In November, Najib had visited China, culminating in investments worth RM143.64 billion from 14 business arrangements.

To a comparison between the investments secured in China and India, Najib said the investments in China were immediately implemented, while those in India involved long-term projects.