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WHITE HOUSE VISIT

PM to discuss possible bilateral trade agreement with US

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will discuss several initiatives with United States President Donald Trump, including a possible bilateral trade arrangement.

Najib said in his meeting with Trump, he hoped the US would see Malaysia as a reliable partner in trade, investment, security and in combating terrorism.

"I hope US companies see Malaysia as among the best countries to invest in.

"We want access to high technology, and we need participation and technology transfer from the US.

"There are also several other initiatives that I will raise with Trump, and I would like to see a two-way, mutually beneficial partnership," he said after chairing the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council meeting here yesterday.

Najib said the US was Malaysia's second largest investor and a significant player in Malaysia's economic growth.

He said following the US' exit from the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, Malaysia was open to the possibility of a bilateral trade arrangement with the US.

"We will begin some preliminary discussions on the matter.

"We will see whether this route is one we can pursue and the time frame it would entail."

Trump is scheduled to welcome Najib at the White House on Sept 12.

The leaders are expected to discuss issues such as mutually beneficial cooperation, national safety and ways to combat terrorism and extremism.

Malaysia and the US will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties this year.

It was reported that the White House said Trump was looking forward to discussing how the US could further strengthen and broaden bilateral ties and expand regional cooperation with one of its closest partners in Southeast Asia.