

PM to boost ties on Turkey visit

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ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob will embark on a four-day official visit to Turkey beginning today as both countries commit to strengthen bilateral and economic ties, as well as cooperation in the aerospace and defence industries.

He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Special Functions) Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad, Air Force Chief Jen Tan Sri Mohd Asghar Khan Goriman Khan as well as Armed Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Zamrose Mohd Zain.

Malaysia ambassador to Turkey Sazali Mustafa Kamal said during the visit, which is at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, both leaders are expected to discuss post-pandemic cooperation.

"The inaugural meeting of the two Islamic country leaders will open opportunities for cooperation.

"Apart from bilateral cooperation, both leaders are also expected to discuss issues concerning Ukraine and food security," he told a press conference with Malaysian

journalists here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri is scheduled to meet Erdogan at the Presidential Complex in Ankara on Thursday, followed by a meeting involving the delegations of both countries.

Upon his arrival at the Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, the premier will be given a briefing on the airport, which is owned and has been managed by Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) since 2008.

"MAHB has invested about €500 million (RM2.3 billion) in the Sabiha airport project and is looking at more such projects in the country," he said.

Sazali said after the airport tour, Ismail Sabri will hold meetings with Turkish business communities, adding that about 15 memoranda of understanding and letters of intent are expected to be signed during the visit.

Turkey is Malaysia's third biggest trade partner in the Middle East, after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, with total trade between the two countries recorded at RM16.97 billion in 2021, and projects implemented valued at RM444.59 million.

In 2021, Malaysia exported more than RM4.68 billion worth of palm oil and palm oil products to Turkey for its food and personal care products industry.

- Bernama