

**US Deputy Secretary Of State Calls On Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Visiting United States Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at the office of the finance minister at the Ministry of Finance, here Thursday.

Burns called on Najib, who is also the finance minister, at 12.30 pm, and they had discussions for about 30 minutes.

The United States Ambassador to Malaysia Datuk Paul W. Jones and Malaysian Ambassador to the United States Datuk Seri Dr Jamaludin Jarjis also attended the meeting.

Earlier, Burns called on Deputy Foreign Minister A. Kohilan Pillay at Wisma Putra.

Burns arrived in Malaysia Wednesday on a two-day working visit.

Prior to his departure from Malaysia, Burns said: "President (Barack) Obama, Secretary (of State Hillary) Clinton and I are committed to building upon our strong, cooperative relations with Malaysia and other countries in the Asia Pacific region."

The US seeks to work together with nations across the region to promote economic growth and security, he said in a statement issued by the US embassy here.

Burns noted that the US and Malaysia shared common interests in fostering prosperity and peace in the world on the basis of mutual interest and mutual respect.

He alluded to the meeting between Obama and Najib in Bali just last month during which they discussed a range of important bilateral and multilateral issues.

"Looking ahead, the investments we're making now will lead to further peace and prosperity for the citizens of Malaysia, the United States and everyone in the Asia Pacific region," Burns said.

The statement said Burns' visit was the latest in a series of visits by senior Obama Administration officials, and reflected the importance that the US placed on its relationship with Malaysia as a vital partner in Southeast Asia.

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