

**Kazakhstan-Malaysia Bilateral Relations Need To Be Strong - Ambassador  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- Kazakhstan today stressed on the need to keep its bilateral relations with Malaysia warm and strong.

Its Ambassador to Malaysia, Beibut Atamkulov said over a relatively short period of time, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Malaysia, both countries had managed to establish warm and friendly relations.

"Kazakhstan had become the gateway to the universe for Malaysia because it was precisely from Kazakh land that a Malaysian astronaut was launched to space," he said at a reception here to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Independence of Kazakhstan.

Among guests at the reception were Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop, former Malaysian cabinet minister Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and shoe designer Datuk Jimmy Choo.

On the development in his native land, Atamkulov said sovereign and progressive development on a long historical perspective had been recognised as a strong basis on Kazakhstan's transformation and successful reforms.

He said Kazakhstan now had become a stable state with an active international position.

"This was achieved due to an open economy and stable political system, and being a home for people of different religions and nationalities who live in peace and harmony," he added.

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