

**PM's Visit To Kazakhstan Strengthened Bilateral Ties - Anifah
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- The official visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to Kazakhstan in June was to further enhance bilateral ties between the two countries, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman.

He said the visit also resulted in enhanced cooperation on the economic front with both nations embarking on several signature projects in the oil and gas, Islamic banking, construction and halal food industry sectors.

"The official visit also saw the signing of three agreements between Malaysia and Kazakhstan," he said in his written reply to Tian Chua (PKR-Batu) in the Dewan Rakyat Tuesday.

Anifah said Najib, who led the Malaysian delegation to the 7th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) in Astana, Kazakhstan from June 7 to 9, also paved the way for more trade opportunities between both countries.

This could be seen in the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed by Malaysian companies during the duration of the forum, he said.

Referring to Najib's official visit to Turkmenistan on July 11 and 12, Anifah said it was to fulfill an invitation by the President of Turkmenistan which was also the case for the Kazakhstan visit.

"The visit to Turkmenistan was also to further enhance bilateral ties.

"Five agreements were signed and the prime minister also opened Petronas' first gas terminal in the country, at Kiyanli, Turkmenbashi on July 12, besides announcing the opening of Malaysia's embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan," he said.

Meanwhile, Anifah said, Najib's visit to Perth, Australia from Aug 31 to Sept 3 was in his personal capacity but the prime minister took the opportunity to meet up with Malaysians studying and living in Australia at an Aidilfitri celebration organised by the Malaysian Consulate-General in Perth.

"The prime minister also spent some time to meet and hold discussions with representatives of a Islamic organisation based in Perth," he added.

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