

Najib: We have experience in various sectors to help Myanmar
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MERGAWATI ZULFAKAR IN MYANMAR

NAYPYITAW: Malaysia has offered its expertise in various sectors to Myanmar which is experiencing an economic boom following its government's move to introduce political reforms as well as new trade and investment laws.

[Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#) made the offer during a bilateral meeting with Myanmar [President U Thein Sein](#) at the President's Office in this sprawling capital city, an hour's flight from Yangon.

Najib, accompanied by his wife [Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor](#), arrived here yesterday for a two-day official visit along with a large delegation of Cabinet members and businessmen.

This is his first visit to Myanmar since he became Prime Minister in 2009. The last visit by a Malaysian leader was in 2004.

In a joint statement, both leaders affirmed their commitment to elevate the level of bilateral trade and investments.

"Both leaders agreed to explore the possibilities of expanding cooperation in Myanmar in the fields of plantation, agriculture, energy, construction, manufacturing, telecommunications, tourism and hospitality in which Malaysia has the expertise.

"The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation between the two countries in the areas of labour and human resources," said the statement.

Malaysia is the seventh largest investor in Myanmar with total investment of US\$977.46mil (RM2.99bil) in oil, properties, hotel and manufacturing as at December.

A large number of Myanmar nationals estimated at nearly 260,000 are working in Malaysia.

The two leaders also agreed to convene the first Joint Commission Meeting, headed by their foreign ministers, to facilitate consultation and cooperation in areas of common interest. The date will be fixed later.

They also recognised the significance of tourism in fostering greater understanding and friendship between their people and were prepared to renew cooperation to enhance people-to-people interaction.

Both leaders looked forward to continue collaborating closely to ensure the success of Myanmar's chairmanship of Asean in 2014 before Malaysia's turn in 2015.

Towards this end, Malaysia will train young and mid-level diplomatic officers to enhance their skills.

Today, Najib will meet some 200 Malaysians living in Myanmar before attending a business luncheon and witnessing the signing of several memoranda of understanding between Malaysian and Myanmar companies in the fields of oil and gas, finance, training and capacity building.

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