

British PM's visit aims to boost investment and bilateral ties
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PETALING JAYA: British Prime Minister David Cameron's visit today is expected to attract more investment from the country into Malaysia, promoting it as the preferred investment destination in the region.

This is one of the aims of Cameron's visit the first by a British Prime Minister in almost 20 years besides boosting momentum in bilateral relations and bringing the relationship between the two countries to a higher level.

Cameron will be accompanied by Minister of State for Trade and Investment Lord Stephen Green, Minister of State for Universities and Science David Willetts and an 83-member delegation, comprising government officials, business leaders and media personnel.

The last visit to Malaysia by a British Prime Minister was during John Major's official trip in 1993.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he was looking forward to welcoming Cameron.

"It has been a long time since the last visit from a British PM," he tweeted.

Upon arrival, Cameron, who took office in May 2010, will be accorded an official welcoming ceremony in Putrajaya.

This will be followed by a luncheon hosted by Najib.

According to Wisma Putra, both Prime Ministers will hold a bilateral meeting to discuss overall relations, including co-operation in areas of mutual interest, as well as exchange views on regional and international developments.

"The meeting will provide the platform for both leaders to strengthen co-operation and find new opportunities to enhance bilateral relations between Malaysia and Britain, especially in trade and investment, defence, science and technology, and higher education," it said.

The leaders will also attend a Global Movement of the Moderates (GMM) programme at Nottingham University's Malaysian campus and address a Malaysia-United Kingdom Trade and Investment Forum.

In 2011, Britain was Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner in Europe with total trade in goods valued at RM15bil while Malaysia was the country's second largest trading country in Asean.

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