

Pakistani Envoy Offers Tie-up With M'sia's Livestock Sector To Tackle Food Security

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Expressing concern over food security, Pakistani envoy to Malaysia, Masood Khalid said his country was keen to explore collaborative possibilities in Malaysia's livestock sector, as well as the halal industry where Malaysia had the expertise.

"I expect food security to be one of our main concerns going forward. As such, both our countries need to start thinking along those lines," he said at a press conference after a flag-hoisting ceremony to mark Pakistan's 65th Independence Day here Tuesday.

The Pakistan high commissioner to Malaysia added that since the country had developed an expertise in the halal industry, it could consider combining forces with Pakistan to meet the needs of both countries, as well as other markets in the Middle East.

Commenting on the good relations existent between Pakistan and Malaysia, Masood said greater cooperation between the countries could be achieved in the fields of education, culture and economics, which would benefit both nations.

"Pakistan has always sought further consolidation, improvement in and development of friendly and brotherly ties with Malaysia," he said.

Trade between Malaysia and Pakistan touched US\$2.8 billion last year, which was a 14 per cent jump from 2010.

Masood said the countries also shared strong bilateral relations, and that Pakistani nationals living in Malaysia had always found the country to be very friendly, hospitable and warm.

We enjoy staying here. Malaysia is doing tremendously well economically and in the field of tourism and is often cited as a desirable model for economic development amongst developing countries, he added.

He also spoke about the twin challenges of militancy and extremism that were currently faced by Pakistan, noting that the country's 130,000 brave armed forces were helping to stamp out these disputes.

Every country has challenges and difficulties. We have been facing the problem of militancy for some years now, but have managed to tackle the problem in the last two years, said Masood, adding that this was in line with the tough measures ordered by the Pakistani Government.

Pakistan observes its Independence Day on Aug 14, a day before India became an independent country based on border lines drawn by the British in 1947.

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