

**Philippine Embassy In Kuala Lumpur Welcomes Move To Strengthen Relations With Malaysia**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- The Philippine Embassy here welcomes the further scaling up of Philippine and Malaysian relations, following the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III at the Malacanang Palace, Philippines Monday.

Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia J. Eduardo Malaya said the bilateral meeting heralded a new phase in further scaling up the relations of the two nations, which had been experiencing a renaissance these days due to increasing vibrancy in trade, investment and tourism.

"We hope the meeting between our two leaders would continue the gains brought about by our joint partnerships in these sectors," he said in a statement issued here.

Najib and Aquino, in a joint statement after the bilateral meeting, agreed to further scale up relations between each other's countries and commit to build up the gains, following the signing of the Framework Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The two leaders noted the increased joint business undertakings and interaction between the Philippine and Malaysian investors and businessmen and women, and also cited the crucial roles of the recently-revived Manila-based Philippines-Malaysia Business Council and the Kuala Lumpur-based Malaysia-Philippines Business Council, noting the booming tourism opportunities between each other's countries.

Both leaders decided to direct their respective agencies to hasten negotiations on the proposed cooperation agreements in other fields such as culture, education, health, information, labour, anti-trafficking and combating transnational crime, the statement said.

Aquino and Najib also agreed to further the gains with the signing of the Framework Agreement and looked forward to the conclusion of negotiations on the Annexes of the Framework Agreement.

They also agreed to tap the Philippines-Malaysia Joint Committee on Assistance for the Socio-economic Advancement of Muslim Filipinos (Philippines-Malaysia Joint Committee), under the auspices of the Philippines-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting.

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