

King Hopes For More Programmes To Strengthen Malaysia-Indonesia Ties
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By Ahmad Fuad Yahya

JAKARTA, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Tuesday night expressed the hope that various quarters in Malaysia and Indonesia would be involved more actively in generating collaborative programmes to strengthen bilateral ties.

"It is my wish to see more active and productive involvement at all levels and fields towards enhancing the cooperation and relationship between the two countries in the face of any obstacle.

"In this respect, I'm confident the 9th Annual Consultation between the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Kuala Lumpur on Dec 18 will further strengthen the ties between our two countries," he said at a state banquet at Istana Negara, here Tuesday.

The banquet was hosted by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife, Ibu Ani Yudhoyono, in honour of Tuanku Abdul Halim and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah who are on a four-day state visit to Indonesia from Monday.

Tuanku Abdul Halim said economic ties between Malaysia and Indonesia had shown encouraging growth and expressed confidence that trade and investment would also increase in the years to come.

Such confidence was based on the continuous initiatives and efforts by the two nations in entering into and exploring lucrative sectors for mutual gain, he said.

"Malaysia has also introduced various competitive and value-added investment opportunities through several programmes, including the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

"I warmly welcome Indonesia's intention to step up investments in Malaysia. At the same time, I also encourage Malaysian companies to continue working with Indonesia in its efforts to diversify its economy," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong said he was proud of the roles played by Malaysia and Indonesia in handling issues of common interest at the regional and international levels, particularly in forums such as Asean, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations.

He said he was confident the joint commitment of the two countries would be continued for the sake of mutual prosperity and regional stability.

He went on to express his satisfaction with the joint efforts of the two governments in strengthening the political, economic and socio-cultural ties and hoped that the bilateral cooperation would be propelled to a higher level.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong expressed his appreciation to President Susilo and the Indonesian government for inviting him and the Raja Permaisuri Agong on the state visit to Indonesia.

He hoped that President Susilo and his wife, Ibu Ani, and the Indonesian people would always receive the blessings of Allah and the country would continue to achieve outstanding success.

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