

Prime Minister Wants Officers At The Thai Border To Boost Relations
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DANOK (Thailand), Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak wants Malaysian and Thai officials at the common border to forge closer cooperation to boost bilateral relations between the two countries.

He hoped the goodwill dinner between the officers of the neighbouring countries last night would help to further strengthen the bilateral ties.

The prime minister's aspiration was conveyed by his Special Functions Officer, Datuk Latt Shariman Abdullah who led the officers at the Malaysia-Thai border at the dinner.

Also present were Malaysia's Consul General in Songkhla, Mohd Fauzi Salleh, Bukit Kayu Hitam State Assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Zaini Japar, and Senator Datuk Boon Som Inong who represented the Malaysian Siamese community.

The Thai representatives who were present were Southern Thailand Police Chief Colonel Damras Wiriyohal, Satun Province Vice-Governor U-Tarn Pichayaporn and Songkhla Province Vice-Governor Nattapong Sirichana.

In his speech at the dinner, Latt Shariman said the Malaysian community considered Hadyai as the border because it had become the meeting place for tourists and traders who entered Thailand via Padang Besar, Wang Kelian, Sungai Golok or Tak Bai.

"We leave it to the Joint Development Strategy (JDS) and General Border Committee (GBC) that were set up in 2004 to think of ways of boosting the bilateral ties.

"At the same time, we help in enhancing economic activities under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT). I am certain our embassy and Wisma Putra as well as the relevant parties in Bangkok are working hard to meet this objective," he said.

Latt Shariman said the goodwill dinner, which was last held three years ago to strengthen ties between officials of both countries at the border, would be held annually beginning this year.

He said the officers at the border were more important in ensuring peace and security than those based in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.

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