

Canadian Ship, HMCS Regina, Makes First Visit To Malaysia
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PORT KLANG, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- The Canadian ship, HMCS Regina, a Halifax Class frigate with a crew of 250, made a maiden visit to Malaysia when it docked at Northport, Port Klang yesterday.

The commander of Canada's Pacific Fleet, Commodore Scott Bishop who had flown to Malaysia from Canada to welcome the ship, said the three-day port call was aimed at enhancing maritime security and bolstering the strong relations between Canada and Malaysia.

"Canada and Malaysia share similar interest in navy where we want our countries to be safe, the citizens feel safe and we want prosperity for our citizens.

"So much of our prosperity depends on the ability of everybody to use the oceans and as such, the Royal Canadian Navy is collaborating with many partner nations to promote peace and security in the region," he told reporters who were taken on a tour on board the ship, here, Wednesday.

Bishop said he had worked with the Malaysian navy in 1995 on PASSEX, an exercise done between two navies to ensure that they are able to communicate and cooperate in times of war or humanitarian relief.

He noted that the HMCS Regina, which carries the CH-124 Sea King helicopter, had just completed conducting maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea as part of Operation Artemis, Canada's contribution to the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150), a 27-nation naval coalition.

The ship, departed from its home port in Esquimalt, British Columbia on July 3 last year to begin the long transit to the operational area by way of the Pacific Ocean and is expected to return to home this March.

Bishop said the last few months of the maritime operations had been very successful.

"The strength of the Canadian navy is that it is kept on high readiness all the time and ready to deploy its ships far away on a regular basis," he said.

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