

Najib Hosts Dinner In Honour Of South Africa President And Wife
Bernama
26 Aug, 2013

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak hosted an official dinner in honour of South Africa President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma and his wife Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma at Seri Perdana here Monday.

Present were Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Dr Ewan Ebin and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa.

Zuma, who was elected president in 2009, arrived here yesterday (Sunday) on a three-day working visit to Malaysia, mainly to strengthen the existing good bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his speech, Najib said that Malaysia was appreciative of South Africa's support for candidature to world bodies, including Non-Permanent Member status at the UN Security Council in 2015.

"We are grateful for South Africa's continuing engagement in the Langkawi International Dialogue, which promotes South-south collaboration while the close political co-operation has been accompanied by a surge in bilateral economic activity.

"Malaysia was an important early investor in democratic South Africa. Despite suffering setbacks during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s, our companies have recently begun to make up for lost time.

"Joint ventures between Petronas and Pembani Group, and collaborations between Deftech and Denel, and between Pacific & Orient Insurance and Sanlam Limited, are expressions of the growing confidence in connection with our nations," he said.

Najib also stressed that Malaysian businesses were keen to venture into South Africa and to reach out to the wider African market and hope that South African businesses will see similar opportunities in Malaysia.

"As we speak, Africa and Asia are bright spots in the global economy, with some of the strongest growth and most exciting new markets. As we move toward a new multilateral economic order - with Africa and Asia projected to grow in prosperity and influence - new opportunities for collaboration will surely arise," he added.

Najib also congratulated President Zuma who will be receiving an Honorary Doctorate for Leadership in Humanity from LimKokwing University of Creative Technology and President Nelson Mandela for the Lifetime Campaigner for Global Peace by the Mahathir Global Peace Foundation, tomorrow (Tuesday).

Meanwhile, President Zuma said, besides strengthening bilateral relationship, both countries also need a strong corporation in various aspect which would benefit politically and economically.

"We have a lot of work to do, to further expand corporation in various aspects," he said.

- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=972890>