

Washington Lauds Najib's Leadership For Advancing Malaysia-US Ties In Diverse Areas Bernama

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- U.S. Senator John Kerry has expressed Washington's deep appreciation for Malaysia's leadership under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in enabling closer bilateral ties in diverse areas and setting the stage for potentially deeper linkages in the future.

"Today, our two nations are really working together in more areas than ever before, in economics, in climate, in connectivity, law enforcement, counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, maritime security, science, education - you name it, and we are doing it and doing it together," he said in remarks prior to a press briefing late Thursday night and made available by the U.S. Embassy here.

"Well, I know that President (Barack) Obama was very disappointed to cancel his visit, especially given his personal connection and commitment to the region. But I also know that he believes very deeply in the importance of the relationship between the United States and Malaysia and also in the potential for a relationship in the years to come."

"We're very grateful for Malaysia's leadership on every single one of these issues," said Kerry, who is here to attend the 4th Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) hosted by Malaysia.

The U.S Senator said these critical connections are also behind the U.S commitment in expanding people-to-people initiatives like the GES, which he will have the privilege of addressing Friday morning.

He cited how the American Fulbright English teaching assistants had successfully connected to Malaysian students all over the country in Kuala Lumpur and all the way to Kuantan.

"And I know firsthand the importance of that programme, because I was lucky to have my daughter take part as a Fulbrighter, and I know how profound the impact of that program can be.

"In fact, all of those exchanges make a difference, and that's why we're deeply committed to them here in the region," he added.

Kerry, who is representing Obama for the summit said, hosting GES signified Malaysia's important role in driving regional prosperity.

"And tomorrow, I'm going to have a chance to talk to young people from around the world who are here in order to find ways to pursue their dreams and make their communities stronger and better," he said.

On behalf of Obama, he said the U.S is really proud to be part of that effort.

"But we're convinced that we can do even more to help young leaders be able to achieve their goals," he said, adding that he looks forward to continue what has already been a very

productive trip to the region with a dynamic set of meetings on Friday morning.

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