

**Najib Hosts Luncheon In Honour Of Timor-Leste PM**  
**Bernama**  
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PUTRAJAYA, March 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today hosted an official luncheon in honour of Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao at his official residence, Seri Perdana, here.

Also present were Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, several ministers and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa. Gusmao is on a three-day official visit to Malaysia beginning today.

Najib, in his speech at the lunch, said Malaysia looked forward to Timor-Leste's progress and development and that many areas were covered during his talks with Gusmao.

"We believe trade and investment, education, energy, infrastructure, tourism, communications and public housing are some areas that we can get our private sector to look at very seriously.

"I believe tomorrow, at the business forum, we can highlight the opportunities in your country," he added. A business forum attended by about 200 Malaysian companies is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Najib also reiterated Malaysia's commitment to help Timor-Leste in the education sector and capacity-building.

"The programme, under Malaysia's Technical Cooperation Programme and Malaysia's Defence Cooperation Programme, will continue to help you to build institutions," he added.

Malaysia has assisted Timor-Leste in setting up its Institute for Diplomacy Studies and would assist in the establishment of Timor-Leste's Secretariat of Institutional Strengthening.

Gusmao, in his speech, said Timor-Leste appreciated Malaysia's support for that country to become a member of the Asean regional grouping.

"Thank you for your support for our application to be a member of Asean. We are continuing to prepare ourselves to become a full member of Asean," he said.

He described the co-operation with Malaysia as a 'big chance' for a new country like Timor-Leste, and welcomed Malaysians to help build institutions in his country.

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