

King's Visit To Singapore Historic, Timely, Says High Commissioner

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SINGAPORE, May 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysian High Commissioner to Singapore Datuk Husni Zai Yaacob has described the state visit by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah to Singapore as historic and timely.

It would also further enhance the bilateral ties between the two closest Asean neighbours, he noted.

His Majesty and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Hajah Haminah are expected to arrive in Singapore later this evening for the state visit until Wednesday.

"We are very excited of the visit by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as this is a very historic visit. The last visit by a Malaysian king to the republic was in 2006.

"It is very timely because the (bilateral) relations between Malaysia and Singapore now is at an all-time high.

"The recent Leaders Retreat by both Malaysian and Singaporean Prime Ministers, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Lee Hsien Loong respectively, was a testimony of the close ties between the two countries," Husni Zai told Bernama and RTM in an interview here Sunday.

He said the visit was also to reciprocate Singapore President Tony Tan's state visit to Malaysia in September last year.

"So, we are confident that this visit will further enhance the relations between Malaysia and Singapore."

Touching on the programmes for the Malaysian King, Husni Zai said: "The official programme will start on Monday where Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah will receive a ceremonial welcome at the Istana.

He said their majesties would pay a courtesy call on the president and his wife, Mary Tan, who would host them to a state banquet.

Husni Zai said Lee and his wife would also call on their majesties.

He said their majesties would also have dinner with the Malaysian community in Singapore. About 200 Malaysians are expected to attend the dinner.

Husni Zai said there would also be a special occasion whereby, their majesties would attend an orchid-naming ceremony at the Botanical Garden.

Touching on economic ties, he said: "Bilateral relations between Malaysia and Singapore have improved significantly over the last few years, especially in the economic, political, social and people-to-people.

"With regard to our economic relations, it is very substantive; in terms of trade, Singapore is our biggest trading partner. In terms of investment, Singapore is the biggest investor in Iskandar and Singapore is also the third biggest investor in Malaysia in 2013.

"In terms of tourism, it is very significant. Singapore tourists visiting Malaysia last year totalled more than 52 per cent, and we are confident that this economic relations will be further enhanced in the future," he said.

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