

**Malaysia Agrees South China Sea Territorial Disputes be Resolved Through Dialogue
- Najib
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BEIJING, May 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has agreed that the South China Sea territorial disputes be resolved through dialogue and handled appropriately.

Najib said ASEAN countries and China relied on each other. "Both are close neighbours and good friends, hence, both sides should work closely together for mutual peace and prosperity in the region," he said.

Malaysia would assume the chairmanship of the 10-member bloc ASEAN in 2015 and was willing to contribute more to promote the development of China-ASEAN relations, he said during a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, in Beijing, Friday.

Najib also said that Malaysia would be actively involved in the 21st century maritime Silk Road rebuilding and Asian Development Bank.

Xi proposed the 21st century maritime Silk Road during his visit to Indonesia last October. The China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is, meanwhile, regarded as an innovative experiment by China and Malaysia in rebuilding the maritime Silk Road.

During the meeting, Xi called Malaysia a trustworthy friend and important partner, and the world's second largest economy had agreed to strengthen cooperation with Malaysia to promote peace and prosperity in the region.

Xi hailed the development of China-Malaysia diplomatic ties since their establishment 40 years ago, attributing it to the two countries' mutual respect, political mutual trust, reciprocal cooperation, and fruitful cultural cooperation and exchanges, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Xi called on the two sides to maintain high-level engagement, strengthen experience sharing, promote cooperation in areas including infrastructure construction, communications, aerospace, remote sensing satellites and finance, and to expand bilateral trade and investment.

The two sides should also strengthen cooperation in law enforcement, security and defence, jointly fight terrorism, illegal immigration and cyberspace crime, and enhance cultural and youth exchange, he said.

Among the issues raised during the bilateral meeting, which took over an hour, were the

missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 and the release of two women, including one Chinese woman kidnapped from the Singamata Adventures and Reef Resort in Semporna, Sabah in April this year.

Earlier, Najib received a courtesy call from top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang at the Great Hall of the People.

During the meeting, Najib vowed that Malaysia would give an account of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 to the passengers' families as soon as possible.

Also present were Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, the prime minister's Special Envoy to China Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Idris Haron and MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

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