

MH370: Najib Expresses Malaysia's Gratitude to Turkmenistan

Bernama

June 10, 2014

By Nur-ul Afida Kamaludin

ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan), June 10 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Tuesday expressed Malaysia's gratitude and appreciation to Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the assistance his country had rendered during the initial search for the missing Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH370 aircraft in the Northern Corridor.

During the search for Flight MH370, Turkmenistan had given its fullest support and cooperation which had eased Malaysia's search in the vast area of the corridor, said Najib in the Joint Statement between Malaysia and Turkmenistan on the Occasion of the Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Both leaders signed the joint statement at a signing ceremony, following a four-eyed meeting at the Presidential Palace here.

Earlier, Najib was accorded an official welcoming ceremony in conjunction with his two-day official visit to this Central Asian country.

On March 8, the Boeing 777 aircraft vanished from the radar screen while on a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to Beijing, with 239 passengers and crew on board.

The flight path of the aircraft is believed to have ended in the southern Indian Ocean.

Three months on, despite a massive air and sea search, no trace of Flight MH370 has been found.

In the statement, Najib also congratulated Turkmenistan for being chosen as the host for the Asian Indoor Games and Martial Arts in 2017, and expressed Malaysia's readiness to share its expertise and experiences with Turkmenistan.

Berdimuhamedov, on the other hand, welcomed Malaysia's upcoming chairmanship of Asean in 2015 and looked forward to intensify his country's relations with Malaysia through the platform.

The two leaders also agreed that the partnership between Malaysia and Turkmenistan had enormous potential which could be developed on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.

Among others, this includes trade and investment promotion activities to establish networks between various economic entities, chambers of commerce and state-owned enterprises.

Noting the shared aspirations between Malaysia and Turkmenistan, Najib and Berdimuhamedov expressed the importance of strengthening cooperation of the two countries in the area of energy and mineral resource development.

Both leaders also witnessed the signing of four documents between Malaysia and Turkmenistan.

The Cultural Cooperation Agreement between Malaysia and Turkmenistan was signed by Malaysia's Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Nazri Abdul Aziz and Turkmenistan's Acting Culture Minister Annageldi Garajayev while the Agreed Minute on the Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee on Trade between Malaysia and Turkmenistan was signed by Deputy Secretary-General for Trade, Ministry of International Trade and Industries, Mohd Ridzal Sharif and Turkmenistan Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Bayer Abayen.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Turkmenistan Minister of Education Gulshat Mammedova signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Education Cooperation while the MoU on Long-Term Cooperation between Petronas and the State Agency in Charge of Hydrocarbon was inked by Petronas President and Chief Executive Officer Tan Sri Shamsul Azhar Abbas and Turkmenistan Director of State Agency for Management and Use of Hydrocarbon Resources at The President of Turkmenistan's Office, Yagshygeldi Kakayev.

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