

Turkmenistan Accords Official Welcoming Ceremony for Najib

Bernamea

June 10, 2014

By Nur-ul Afida Kamaludin

ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan), June 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was accorded an official welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace here Tuesday in conjunction with his second visit to Turkmenistan to strengthen bilateral ties, as well as expand existing trade relations between the two countries.

Upon arrival at the golden dome palace here, the Malaysian premier was greeted by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Najib then inspected a guard-of-honor mounted by the Turkmenistan armed forces before being introduced to the Cabinet Ministers and the diplomatic corps by Berdimuhamedov.

Najib then introduced his delegation which included Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, Malaysia Ambassador in Turkmenistan Norman Muhamad and President and Chief Executive Officer of Petronas Tan Sri Shamsul Azhar Abbas

The prime minister, accompanied by wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, is on a two-day visit to this country at the invitation of Berdimuhamedov. They arrived here on Monday evening.

Najib's first official visit to this Central Asian country was on July 11 and 12, 2011.

Among Najib's entourage are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and President and Chief Executive Officer of Petronas Tan Sri Shamsul Azhar Abbas.

After a photo session, Najib and Berdimuhamedov had a four-eyed meeting to discuss various issues.

Turkmenistan is Malaysia's third biggest trade partner in Central Asia.

Total trade between the two countries in 2013 was recorded at US\$33.13 million compared to US\$11.68 million in 2012 and US\$24.27 million in 2011.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, and Berdimuhamedov then signed the Joint Statement between Malaysia and Turkmenistan.

They then witnessed the signing of a Cultural Cooperation Agreement between Malaysia and Turkmenistan; a minute which had been agreed upon on the terms of reference for the joint committee on trade between Malaysia and Turkmenistan.

They also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on education cooperation and a MoU on long-term cooperation between Petronas and the State Agency in Charge of Hydrocarbon.

Later, Najib and Rosmah would join about 100 Malaysians working in the country for lunch, to be hosted by the Malaysian Ambassador in Turkmenistan Norman Muhamad at the Yyldyz Hotel, their hotel of residence here.

Subsequently, Najib would visit the Monument of Constitution where he would place a wreath before planting a pine tree at a nearby park.

About 25 world leaders have planted trees at the park there as a symbol of friendship with Turkmenistan during their official visit to the country.

In conjunction with the official visit, Najib and Rosmah would also attend an official dinner hosted by Berdimuhamedov at the Presidential Palace.

They are scheduled to return home tonight.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2014 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=1045010>