

Najib's Visit to Turkmenistan Strengthens Bilateral, Trade Relations

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ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan), June 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is scheduled to arrive here Monday to begin his second official visit to Turkmenistan to strengthen bilateral ties, as well as expand existing trade relations between the two countries.

The two-day visit by Najib, accompanied by wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, to this country is on the invitation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Accompanying the prime minister in this visit are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar.

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

According to Wisma Putra, Najib would be accorded an official welcome at the Presidential Palace before having a four-eyed meeting with Berdimuhamedov on Tuesday.

Later, the two leaders would head their respective delegation at a bilateral meeting, scheduled to discuss various bilateral and trade 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.

After the meeting, Najib, who is also Finance Minister, and Berdimuhamedov, will witness the signing of five documents, namely a Joint Statement between Malaysia and Turkmenistan; a Cultural Cooperation Agreement between Malaysia and Turkmenistan and a Minute which had been agreed upon on the terms of reference for the joint committee on trade between Malaysia and Turkmenistan.

They would also witness 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.

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

After that, Najib would visit the Monument of Constitution, where he would place a wreath and also plant a pine tree.

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 on Tuesday night.

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