

Perak Media-Malaysia-Beijing Goodwill Programme Paves Way To A Better Relationship

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From Nadia Jumri

BEIJING, March 21 (Bernama) -- The Perak Media-Malaysia-Beijing Goodwill programme organised by Perak Media and Welfare Club paves the way to the establishment of good relations between the media of both countries, said Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Datuk Akmar Hisham Mokhles.

He said the programme was an important step for the Malaysian media to establish strong ties with the media of a super power of the world.

"I believe diplomacy between the two countries is important as we cannot anticipate what will happen in future.

"This time we are tested with MH370 tragedy, probably in future the relationship will be tested with other matters. Perak Media is the pioneer in strengthening relationship with the media here," Akmar Hisham told reporters attending the programme, here.

Among objectives of the programme was to establish diplomatic relations between the Malaysian and Chinese media following the incident of the missing Malaysia Airlines aircraft on March 8 last year.

Akmar Hisham said the programme from March 16 to 22 and participated by 32 representatives from various Malaysian media agencies, could further strengthen media cooperation especially on MH370 search mission coverage.

Flight MH370, with 227 passengers and 12 crew members onboard went missing from the radar screen on March 8 last year when travelling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. A search mission are underway in the southern Indian Ocean where it is believed to have ended.

Meanwhile, Defence Adviser of the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing, First Admiral Zualkafly Ahmad said the goodwill programme would be able to assist the government in strengthening bilateral relations with China.

"Malaysia-China relations continued to strengthen despite the MH370 incident and diplomatic relations between the two countries have now reached 40 years," he said.

According to Zhang Jhe Yang, a media practitioner from China International Radio Station here, initially during the MH370 incident, some people in the country had negative perceptions of the Malaysian government.

"A year has gone by since the incident happened, and I feel the commitment of the Malaysian government has proven that they had taken every effort to unravel the mystery of the missing flight.

"In fact, efforts by the media can help heal the pain and suffering of families of the victims, said Zhang who has more than 10 years experience in journalism.

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