

Anzac Day Enhances Ties Between Australians And Malaysians

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SANDAKAN, April 25 (Bernama) -- Anzac Day is celebrated every year today at Sandakan Memorial Park here as an important platform in further enhancing ties between the people of Australia and Malaysia.

Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri said the Australian government initiative was an important event to commemorate that country's military forces who were killed in Sandakan during the Second World War.

"This celebration showed that Malaysia shared a lot of history with Australia since ancient times and this close relationship was very much evident when the Flight MH370 tragedy occurred," he said when met after the Anzac day celebration at Sandakan Memorial Park here Saturday.

State Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun was the guest of honour at the function, which was also attended by family members of the Australian and New Zealand military personnel killed in the war here.

Abdul Rahim said Malaysia was a friendly nation to Australia besides having ties in the military field under the Five Power Defence.

Meanwhile Masidi told reporters that the celebrations was also an opportunity to introduce Sabah, particularly Sandakan from the tourism aspect.

He was confident that tourists from Australia and New Zealand attending Anzac Day here would indirectly helped in the district's tourism sector.

At present Sandakan was being bypassed by tourists from Kota Kinabalu who normally headed to Kinabatangan without making a stopover here, he said.

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