

**Colombia Expresses Gratitude To Malaysia For Endorsement Of Peace Commitment**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 (Bernama) -- Colombia has expressed gratitude to Malaysia for its endorsement of the Colombian government's peace commitment.

Colombian Ambassador to Malaysia, Victor Hugo Echeverri said that while the republic had a continuous and sustained Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, they also had an old internal conflict.

In this context, he said the Colombian government hoped the ongoing peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) would reach a satisfactory agreement.

"In this regards, the support of the international community, and specially the support of the government of Cuba, Norway, Chile and Venezuela has been crucial," he said in his address at the 205th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Colombia here, last night.

In 2012, the Colombian government and the FARC began informal peace negotiations in Havana, Cuba, and by December 2014, the FARC declared a unilateral ceasefire.

Peace negotiations between the two parties are still ongoing and have covered various aspects, including land reform, political participation and reparation for victims.

The peace process aims to bring an end to more than 50 years of armed conflict that has claimed more than 220,000 lives and millions of other victims.

Echeverri also thanked the Wisma Putra for the generous support to enhance an agenda that had been strengthened during Colombia's External Relations Minister Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar's three-day working visit to Malaysia last January.

"We hope to continue our high-level mutual exchange visits," he added.

During the visit, Holguin Cuellar also met with Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and had sought to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

In her interview with Bernama, Holguin Cuellar said Colombia was also keen to increase bilateral trade and investment with Malaysia and invited Malaysian companies to invest in its oil palm and oil and gas industries.

Echeverri also said that a GDP growth of four percent was forecasted for this year for Colombia, a nation with some 46 million population and with a growing middle class and remarkable achievement in reducing poverty rates.

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