

Malaysia, Brunei Reaffirm Commitment For Further Cooperation

Bernama

Aug 11, 2015

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam today reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in areas of common interest for the benefit of the two countries.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and the Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, expressed their pleasure at the encouraging developments under the implementation of the Exchange of Letters signed by the leaders of the two countries on March 16, 2009, in a joint statement released after the 19th Annual Leaders' Consultation at Istana Nurul Iman here.

During the meeting, both leaders highlighted the important role of the Exchange of Letters in strengthening the warm and special relations between the two countries and in advancing strategic cooperation.

The joint statement also stated that the two leaders also expressed satisfaction over the progress of the joint technical teams on the joint demarcation and survey of the land boundary between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, noting that progress had been made in some of the priority areas.

"The leaders urged both sides to undertake joint survey and demarcation activities expeditiously, particularly in areas of significant interest to the people of both countries," the statement said.

Najib and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah also urged officials of both countries to intensify their discussions with a view to establishing a memorandum of understanding or other appropriate framework to enable the early operationalisation of the provision of the Exchange of Letters relating to maritime access.

"Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maritime cooperation and urged the officials of both countries to continue discussions towards increasing collaboration in this area with a view to having a memorandum of understanding in maritime cooperation," it said.

The joint statement also said that the two leaders noted the establishment of the Brunei-Sarawak Tourism Working Group to cooperate and collaborate in the areas of accessibility and connectivity, marketing and promotion as well as safety and security.

"The leaders also looked forward to the bilateral agriculture cooperation between Brunei and Sarawak in the areas of rice production, livestock and aquaculture.

The two leaders noted the intention of Brunei and Sarawak to enter into an arrangement to cooperate in the field of crude palm oil in the near future," it said.

It said both leaders were pleased to note the ongoing discussions on the movement of prisoners from areas between Sabah and Sarawak via Brunei Darussalam and the movement of prisoners within Brunei Darussalam via Sarawak.

"They continued to encourage the relevant agencies to strengthen their cooperation in this area, especially in working towards the finalisation of an agreed standard operating procedure (SOP)," it said.

The statement said the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, the government and people of Brunei Darussalam expressed condolences to the victims and families affected by the earthquake in Ranau, Sabah, on June 5, 2015.

Meanwhile, Najib expressed appreciation for the contributions made by the Brunei Darussalam government as well as the people of Brunei Darussalam through the Humanitarian Fund for Flood Victims in Malaysia for flood relief efforts in Malaysia in December 2014.

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