

Australian Parliamentarians Laud Malaysian Unity, Harmony

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By R. S. Ratcharathan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- A group of Australian parliamentarians who are here on a four-day familiarisation tour have praised the unity and harmony prevailing in the multiracial Malaysian society since independence.

Dewan Negara President Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang related this to Bernama after receiving a courtesy call from the five-member group here today.

He said they also discussed current issues including migrant movement, refugee crises and security concerns.

"We also discussed differences in the parliamentary system of both countries. The senate members in Australia are elected while here in Malaysia, are appointed," he said.

The Australian Parliamentarians were led by Member for Boothby (Liberal) Dr Andrew Southcott, with the others in the group being Member for Perth (Labor) Alannah MacTiernan; Member for Leichhardt (Liberal) Warren Entsch; Senator for Tasmania (Greens) Peter Whish-Wilson; and, Delegation Secretary Luke Buckmaster.

Abu Zahar said during the meeting, he also received a formal invitation from Southcott to visit Australia.

He said the Australian parliamentarians also voiced concern on the current economic situation affecting the world.

The visit which began last Sunday, is aimed at improving and strengthening bilateral ties between Malaysia and Australia.

Earlier, the group visited Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia at the parliament building.

After Malaysia, the Australian delegation will head for Cambodia.

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