

Malaysia And Thailand To Further Expand Trade And Investment
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Thailand will work closely to further expand trade and investment between the two countries with a view to achieve the target of USD30 billion (RM120 billion) bilateral trade by 2018.

This was among issues discussed between Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Thailand Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai during the co-chaired 13th Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCM) and 4th Joint Development Strategy for the Border Areas (JDS) between Malaysia and Thailand here, on Oct 21-22.

"Anifah and Don Pramudwinai expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. They took stock and reviewed the progress made on the implementation of bilateral issues of mutual concern.

"Both Ministers reiterated their commitment to further enhance the existing longstanding bilateral ties between the two countries. They considered the two meetings as timely as the last time both sides met was in 2012 at the 12th JCM and 3rd JDS in Phuket, Thailand," the statement said.

They were also pleased with tourism cooperation between the two countries where in 2014, 1.3 million Malaysians visited Thailand and 2.6 million Thai nationals visited Malaysia.

"In view of the importance of the leaders of Malaysia and Thailand attached to the Rantau Panjang-Sungai Golok Second Bridge and Pengkalan Kubor-Tak Bai New Bridge, the ministers reiterated the need for both sides to adhere to the agreed timeline in implementing the projects. The ministers noted that both sides would begin discussions on the cost management of the two projects soon," said the statement.

Meanwhile, Malaysia and Thailand also agreed to promote further cooperation in the halal sector through greater interaction between the Halal Development Corporation (HDC) and the Ministry of Industry of Thailand.

According to the statement, Anifah and Don Pramudwinai also exchanged views on combating human trafficking, illegal immigrants and environmental issues including trans boundary haze pollution, rubber cooperation, education and vocational training.

The 13th JCM and 4th JDS Ministerial Meetings were preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Oct 21 and the 14th JCM and 5th JDS would be held in Thailand at a date to be mutually agreed upon in 2016.

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