

Malaysia-Singapore Committed To Work Together To Combat Cross-Border Crimes
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PUTRAJAYA, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Singapore are committed to work together in security area, especially to combat cross-border crimes in the region.

The commitment was conveyed during the meeting between Deputy Prime Minister, who is also Home Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Singapore Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at the Home Ministry, here today.

Balakrishnan was paying a courtesy call to Ahmad Zahid in conjunction with his introductory visit to Malaysia after being appointed as Singapore Foreign Minister on Oct 1.

During the 30-minute meeting, Balakrishnan was accompanied by Singapore High Commissioner to Malaysia Vanu Gopala Menon.

Also present was Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed.

In a statement issued later, Malaysia and Singapore, as members of ASEAN and United Nations, agreed and committed to work together on several platforms at the regional level.

Among the platforms are the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Cross-Border Crimes, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drugs, ASEAN Senior Officers Meeting on Cross-Border Crimes and ASEAN Senior Officers Meeting on Drugs.

According to the statement, Malaysia and Singapore had also signed a memorandum of understanding on drugs in 2012.

"Under the memorandum, a working committee had been set up involving senior officers of the two countries to discuss further cooperation to tackle the issue of drug abuse," the statement said.

The working committee was also the best platform for the two countries to discuss new threats and rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts.

Yesterday, Balakrishnan also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Anifah Aman.

Balakrishnan, who is former Environment and Water Resource Minister, was appointed as Foreign Minister in the Singapore Cabinet line up announced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong last month.

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