

## **DPM Has Fruitful Visit to Beijing on E-Visa**

**Bernama**

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BEIJING, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has left for Kuala Lumpur at about noon today after concluding a four-day visit here.

In his first visit to China as Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmad Zahid discussed Malaysia's proposals on implementing electronic visa system (e-visa) and the programme of visa payment exemption for Chinese nationals.

Talks with the secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China, Meng Jiangzhu and Minister of Public Security Gou Shengkun brought positive outcomes when the Chinese welcomed the the proposals.

Malaysia's proposals which were well received by the Chinese reflected the warm relations between the two countries as well as the friendship between Ahmad Zahid with his counterparts, Guo and Meng.

He said the agreement was reached when the official letters between the two countries were handed to the Malaysian Ambassador to China, Datuk Zainuddin Yahya.

The agreement by China was important in the Malaysian government's effort to attract eight million tourists from China annually for five years which have a purchasing power of RM22.1 billion, compared to 1.3 million tourists annually earlier.

The effort is important to Malaysia to attract some of the 100 million Chinese tourists going abroad every year to boost the local economy.

Following that, the government through the Immigration Department looked into ways of facilitating the entry of Chinese tourists and the latest move was to provide visa exemption for visits not exceeding 15 days which are organised by tour agencies.

Nonetheless, both governments are seeking the best solution to ensure the issue of security is maintained and there is no compromise even though the measure is more liberal on the question of visa.

Following that, the Chinese authorities especially police and immigration will be sharing information as well as providing a list of criminal suspects with their biometrics as well as thumb prints.

Apart from that, both countries also discussed joint efforts in eradicating militant, extremism and radicalism activities to combat terrorism.

Both countries also agreed to continue exchanging intelligence information as well as sharing such information involving terrorists with emphasis on capacity building and training.

This included placing the respective officers of enforcement agencies including police in both the countries for training and attachment.

It was also revealed that Malaysia will be organising a biennial Joint Working Committee meeting in Langkawi in August with focus on cross-border criminal issues.

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