

## **Malaysia, Yemen Reaffirm To Further Strengthen Bilateral Ties**

PUTRAJAYA, March 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Yemen have reaffirmed to further strengthen the close bilateral relations between both countries.

Wisma Putra, in a statement, released today in conjunction with the courtesy call by Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister cum Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Abdul Jalil Al-Mekhlafi on Malaysia's Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican at his office here today.

During the visit, Al-Mekhlafi was accompanied by Ambassador of Yemen to Malaysia, Adel Mohamed Al BA Hamid and Specialist of Asia Division of the Foreign Ministry, Khulob Raydan Hussain Abdullah.

The statement said both leaders also discussed and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Reezal Merican also took the opportunity to further express Malaysia's concern over the prolonged conflict in Yemen, and reiterated Malaysia's stance that the conflict could not be resolved militarily but required political solution.

"Malaysia will continue to support efforts to fight militant and terrorism activities in Yemen in order to stop the country from sliding into further destruction," Wisma Putra said.

After the courtesy call, Reezal Merican hosted a lunch for Al-Mekhlafi and his entourage.

In 2016, Malaysia's total trade with Yemen stood at US\$150.6 million (RM676 million). In addition, currently it is estimated that close to 20,000 Yemeni nationals are residing in Malaysia.

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