

Highway among projects discussed

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KEMAMAN: The bilateral meeting between Brunei and Malaysia ended on a high note with leaders of both countries reaching common understanding on several matters.

Describing the meeting with Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah as amiable, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said both countries would work closely to strengthen ties and look into the implementation of several viable projects.

Abdullah said among the key points raised were the proposed construction of a new highway between the two countries and Kalimantan.

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"The project could take shape in the near future," he told a press conference after the 10th Annual Consultation at Awana Kijal Resort and Spa here yesterday.

Both leaders also discussed at length the construction of a Trans-Borneo highway connecting Brunei, Sarawak and Sabah.

"The highway is crucial for all of us as it is an important infrastructure to enhance fiscal developments between the two countries. We also hope to encourage close rapport between the people of Brunei and Malaysia," he said.

Abdullah added that they also discussed the exemption of passports for Sabahans entering Brunei.

"Currently, Sarawakians are not



CLOSE RAPPORT: Abdullah greeting Sultan Hassanal at the 10th Annual Consultation between Malaysia and Brunei in Kemaman, Terengganu, yesterday.

required to use the travel document," he said, adding that the move would minimise the hassle for workers commuting between Sabah and Brunei.

"We have also agreed to conduct more exchange and study programmes between top civil servants from both countries," he said.

Abdullah said he welcomed the Brunei government's interest in Malaysia's approach in implementing projects under the 9th Malaysia Plan.

He said both countries had also agreed to despatch troops for the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon.

On flight delays by Malaysia Airlines

and budget airline AirAsia, Abdullah said the matter was under the purview of Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy.

"The matter was discussed during the Cabinet meeting and I have directed Chan to find a solution promptly," he added.