



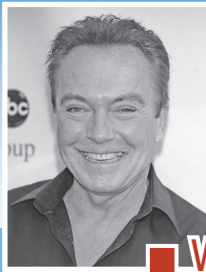
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Various M'sia-Indonesia agreements made

BY DESMOND MARKUS

KUCHING: The 12th annual consultation and commemoration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Indonesia has come out with various agreements for the better.

According to Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the strong bilateral ties between the two nations had come out with a good solution for both.

"There are many developments in our bilateral ties which comprise the fields of politics, economy, social, security and joint borders.

"The wish of both leaders to resolve some matters to improve this relationship which we believe have the high potential and opportunity can be realised," said Najib during a joint press conference with President of Indonesia, Ir. Joko Widodo after witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on the Cooperation in the Field of Islamic Higher Education, at Hilton Hotel, yesterday.

One issue that has become attentive during the meeting is the export restriction against palm oil into the European Union (EU).

"Malaysia and Indonesia will take joint action to counter the discrimination which will otherwise jeopardise 600,000 smallholders in Malaysia and 13.5 million smallholders in Indonesia,

"This issue is much closer to the people of Malaysia and Indonesia. It is an unfair decision because it will affect the smallholders drastically,

"We have forwarded this issue to the attention of EU President, Donald Tusk, and with this joint action, we hope they will not continue the discrimination action," said Najib.

Meanwhile, on the matters of border area, both Najib and Joko have agreed to open the Entikong-Tebedu border.

"This border will open after the Border Cross Agreement (BCA) and Border Trade Agreement (BTA) is settled. By opening the border, it will provide many benefits especially to the people nearby the border,

"We also have received a request from Sabah to open the border of Serundum-Semenggiris Baru, and it will also be decided after the BCA and BTA," Najib explained.

In addition, an agreement was also made to have a joint study between Malaysia and Indonesia on the potential of the border area.

"This study will identify the potential on how to develop the border area to benefit both nations," said Najib.

Meanwhile, Najib



PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak (right) and President of Indonesia Ir. H. Joko Widodo witnessing the exchange of MoU document between the Government of Malaysia represented by Minister of Higher Education Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh and Government of the Republic of Indonesia represented by Retno L.P. Marsudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Indonesia on the cooperation in the Field of Islamic Higher Education in Hilton Hotel, Kuching yesterday. PHOTO: RAMIDI SUBARI

announced the remanded fishermen who encroached into both nations' waters to fish illegally will be released as soon as possible.

Joko also said that the trade between Malaysia and Indonesia in the first term showed an increase of 21 per cent.

"It is a huge increase and I

welcome the good initiative of exports from Indonesia to Malaysia through Entekong which is about 25,000 tonnes in last October," Joko said.

PM holds closed-door meeting with Sarawak BN assemblypersons

KUCHING: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak took time off from his busy schedule in Sarawak to hold a meeting with Sarawak Barisan Nasional assemblypersons.

The closed-door meeting which lasted one hour and 45 minutes was held at a leading hotel in Kuching yesterday afternoon.

Sarawak BN secretary Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom said Najib, who is also BN chairman, touched on various matters including on development projects for Sarawak and also gave advice regarding the 14th General Election (GE14).

"He did not say when GE14 will be held but we stated our readiness to deliver a big victory for BN (in Sarawak)," he told the media after the meeting.

Sarawak Chief Minister and Sarawak BN chairman Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Johari Tun Openg was also present.

GE14 must be called by August next year. - Bernama

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745 manufacturing projects worth RM71.2 bln implemented

BY ALEXANDRA LORNA

KUCHING: To date, a total of 745 manufacturing projects with investment worth RM71.2 billion have been implemented in Sarawak.

Assistant Minister for Entrepreneur and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais, said over the years, Sarawak has made great strides in economic development and the state's economy is expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2017.

"We are clear about what we want for Sarawak and its people.

"The Sarawak Socio-Economic Transformation Plan (STEP) provides comprehensive guiding principles on how we want to move forward in becoming a high income and developed state by 2030," he pointed out.

He said echoing the overall investment agenda of the country, the government is also focusing on attracting more high value added and high technology industries to invest in Sarawak.

"Based on our core advantages, 10 priority industries have been identified for further development given their potential in generating huge economic impact to the state.

"They are aluminium, oil based, steel, glass, palm oil, timber based, livestock, aquaculture, marine engineering and tourism industries," he said in his speech at the Supply Chain Conference for East Malaysia at UCSI Hotel, yesterday.

He said with the identifica-



A section of the participants during the Supply Chain Conference For East Malaysia MIDA at UCSI Hotel, in Kuching yesterday. PHOTO: AHMAD ISKANDAR

tion of these priority industries, the state government through its various agencies particularly Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) will intensify our efforts in improving physical development as well as investment promotion and marketing for these industries.

Meanwhile, according to Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Investment

Development Authority (MIDA), Sarawak is certainly one of the many appealing investment destinations within Malaysia.

"Through these 745 manufacturing projects, we want to create opportunities for SMEs to access global market and at the same time, encourage multinational corporations (MNCs) to utilise local products and services.

"The strong presence of many

multinational corporations (MNCs) and large local corporations (LLCs) located here, and the very fact a few big names such as OCIM, X-Fab, Huchems Fine Chemical, LONGi, Comtec, Press Metal, Cahya Mata Sarawak and Shin Yang Industries have made significant investments in Sarawak hold much promise for business collaboration and opportunities within this region," he said.



FOUR of the six containers loaded with firecrackers and fireworks smuggled through Limbang.

RM1 million worth of smuggled items seized

BY ADENG IDRUS

LIMBANG: Sarawak Marine Police successfully made a second seizure in a one week period involving six containers containing firecrackers and fireworks worth almost RM1 million.

This seizure was made at an open space at Jalan Medamit, located 41 kilometres from Limbang town on Tuesday afternoon.

According to Sarawak Marine Police Region Five Commander ACP Salehuddin Mat Zaman, this second seizure was made a week after the biggest seizure in Sarawak made on last Thursday also in Limbang.

He said the operation was led by one officer with a unit comprising six Marine Police intelligence personnel from Kuching, Bintulu and Limbang, in an open area, six kilometres from the old brick factory, which was the site of last week's biggest seizure.

Further investigations had found that the six containers located in the open space containing various firecrackers and fireworks were estimated



AMONG the boxes loaded with smuggled firecrackers and fireworks found at the scene.

edly worth almost RM1 million, " Salehuddin said when contacted.

At the same time, he said the items were smuggled into the local market ahead of the Christmas and Chinese New Year festive seasons.

The success was also a result of the intelligence and investigations conducted by the intelligence unit, he pointed out.