DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT

Strengthening Malaysia-Timor-Leste Relations: Key Outcomes and Future Collaborations from the Official Visit

As I begin my official visit to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste from August 28 to 30, 2024, I had the privilege of meeting with President José Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão. Additionally, I engaged in productive discussions with Vice-Prime Minister I and Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister of Tourism and Environment Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, and Vice-Prime Minister II and Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs, Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing Mariano Assanami Sabino.

Accompanied by senior Malaysian government officials and representatives from Halal Development Corporation (HDC), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), UniKL, and PLANMalaysia, we explored key areas of cooperation, including the state of Malaysia-Timor-Leste bilateral relations and education including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), the halal industry, rural development, and town planning.

As a result of this visit, several milestones have been achieved:

a) **Strengthening Higher Education**: We have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in higher education through Universiti Teknikal MARA (UniKL) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Culture of Timor-Leste. UniKL will award 50 scholarships to Timor-Leste students, enabling them to study in Malaysia.

   Additionally, UniKL will serve as the key technology provider for the new polytechnics being established in Timor-Leste., focusing on Digital Marketing,

Food Technology, and Tourism Management. UniKL's Centre for Advancement & Continuing Education (ACE) will also offer hybrid short courses in Leadership, Finance, Management, and Entrepreneurship for government officials. Furthermore, Timor-Leste will send government-sponsored undergraduate students to UniKL for studies in Chemical Engineering (Process and Food Technology), Tourism, and Business Administration via open distance learning.

b) **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EMGS and FDCH**: We signed an MoU between Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) and the Human Capital Development Fund Timor-Leste (FDCH). This agreement will facilitate an increase in Timor-Leste students pursuing higher education in Malaysia and enhance university collaborations between our two countries. FDCH, which funds scholarships for education and human capital development, will also support 31 Timor-Leste students in pursuing graduate and postgraduate studies in Malaysia starting this November.

c) **MoU between Universiti Malaysia Sabah and National University of Timor-Leste**: This MoU aims to enhance cooperation between Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) by promoting and facilitating academic, research, and training activities. This collaboration will benefit both institutions through activities such as staff and student exchanges, research partnerships, joint conferences, publications, and training programs.

   UMS plans to introduce its science and social science foundation programs to Timor-Leste under this MoU, branded as UMS@UNTL. Additionally, the MoU will position Timor-Leste as an emerging educational hub in the region through the strengthened cooperation between UMS and UNTL.

This official visit will not only deepen the strong ties between Malaysia and Timor-Leste but also exemplify Malaysia's unwavering support for Timor-Leste's aspiration to become a full member of ASEAN.

By fostering closer collaboration in education, research, and various sectors, we are laying the groundwork for a more integrated partnership. Malaysia remains committed

to assisting Timor-Leste in its journey towards ASEAN membership, and we are confident that our shared efforts will lead to mutual growth and success.

AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

29th AUGUST 2024

END

TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI

KENYATAAN MEDIA

MEMPERKASA HUBUNGAN MALAYSIA - TIMOR-LESTE: SIGNIFIKAN LAWATAN RASMI DAN KERJASAMA UNTUK MASA DEPAN

Dalam rangka lawatan rasmi ke Republik Demokratik Timor-Leste bermula 28 hingga 30 Ogos 2024, saya berpeluang bertemu dengan Presiden José Ramos-Horta dan Perdana Menteri Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão serta mengadakan perbincangan dengan Timbalan Perdana Menteri I merangkap Menteri Koordinasi Hal Ehwal Ekonomi dan Menteri Pelancongan dan Alam Sekitar, Francisco Kalbuadi Lay serta Timbalan Perdana Menteri II merangkap Menteri Hal Ehwal Sosial dan Menteri Pembangunan Luar Bandar dan Perumahan Komuniti, Mariano Assanami Sabino.

Delegasi Malaysia turut disertai oleh pegawai-pegawai Kerajaan, wakil-wakil daripada Halal Development Corporation (HDC), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), dan PLANMalaysia. Kesemua wakil Kerajaan dan organisasi masing-masing bersama-sama meneroka bidang kerjasama baharu di antara Malaysia-Timor-Leste terutamanya dalam bidang pendidikan termasuk Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET), industri halal, pembangunan luar bandar, dan perancangan bandar.

Hasil daripada lawatan ini, beberapa keberhasilan utama telah dicapai antaranya:

a) **Pemerkasaan Pendidikan Tinggi:** Kerajaan telah bersetuju untuk meningkatkan kerjasama dua-hala dalam pendidikan tinggi melalui Universiti Teknikal MARA (UniKL) dan Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi, Sains, dan Kebudayaan Timor-Leste. UniKL akan menganugerahkan 50 biasiswa kepada

pelajar Timor-Leste bagi menarik minat mereka untuk melanjutkan pengajian di Malaysia.

Selain itu, UniKL akan berperanan sebagai penyedia teknologi bagi penubuhan politeknik baharu di Timor-Leste yang menfokuskan kepada bidang Pemasaran Digital, Teknologi Makanan, dan Pengurusan Pelancongan. Pusat Kemajuan & Pendidikan Berterusan (ACE) UniKL juga akan menawarkan kursus pendek secara hibrid di dalam bidang Kepimpinan, Kewangan, Pengurusan, dan Keusahawanan kepada para Pegawai Kerajaan. Selain itu, Timor-Leste akan menghantar pelajar Ijazah Sarjana Muda yang ditaja oleh Kerajaan ke UniKL untuk belajar dalam bidang Kejuruteraan Kimia (Teknologi Pemprosesan Makanan), Pelancongan, dan Pentadbiran Perniagaan melalui kaedah pembelajaran jarak jauh.

b) **Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) antara EMGS dan FDCH:** Pemeteraian MoU antara Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) dan Human Capital Development Fund Timor-Leste (FDCH) bagi memudahkan meningkatkan jumlah pelajar Timor-Leste mengikuti pendidikan tinggi di Malaysia serta memperkasa bidang kerjasama universiti di antara kedua-dua negara. FDCH yang membiayai biasiswa untuk pendidikan dan pembangunan modal insan turut bersetuju membiayai seramai 31 pelajar Timor-Leste mengikuti pengajian Ijazah Sarjana dan Pascasarjana di Malaysia bermula November ini.

c) **MoU antara Universiti Malaysia Sabah dan Universiti Nasional Timor-Leste:** Pemeteraian MoU di antara Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) dan Universiti Nasional Timor-Leste (UNTL) bertujuan untuk mempromosi dan memudahkan kerjasama dalam bidang akademik, penyelidikan, dan latihan. Kerjasama ini juga dapat memberi manfaat kepada kedua-dua institusi melalui aktiviti seperti pertukaran kakitangan dan pelajar, perkongsian penyelidikan, persidangan, penerbitan, serta program latihan dan kemahiran.

Melalui MoU ini juga, UMS turut merancang untuk memperkenalkan program asasi sains dan sains sosial ke Timor-Leste yang dikenali sebagai UMS@UNTL. UMS dan UNTL turut memanfaatkan MoU ini bagi meletakkan

Timor-Leste sebagai hab pendidikan serantau dan memberi manfaat kepada kedua-dua pihak.

Dalam konteks yang lebih luas, saya melihat program lawatan rasmi ini bukan sekadar dapat memperkasa hubungan kerjasama yang erat di antara Malaysia dan Timor-Leste, tetapi juga lawatan ini bagi menterjemahkan sikap Malaysia yang sentiasa menyokong dan mengambil pendekatan bahu membahu di antara negara-negara serantau termasuklah mendokong usaha dan aspirasi Timor-Leste untuk menjadi anggota penuh ASEAN.

Saya percaya, melalui kerjasama erat Malaysia dan Timor-Leste dalam bidang pendidikan, penyelidikan, dan pelbagai sektor lain, ianya telah membuka dimensi baharu hubungan kedua-dua negara ke arah yang lebih maju dan berdaya saing pada masa hadapan.

AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI
Timbalan Perdana Menteri
29 Ogos 2024