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## Malaysia To Open Consulate Office In Melbourne

by Neville D'Cruz

MELBOURNE, March 3 (Bernama) - Malaysia will set up a consulate-general office in Melbourne, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said at a dinner, here Wednesday night.

The dinner was hosted by the newly-elected Liberal Party Premier of Victoria Ted Baillieu.

Najib, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and a high-powered Malaysian delegation, said the state of Victoria and Malaysia had much in common and had worked hard to maintain close ties.

"Why I have chosen Victoria, and Melbourne in particular for the second leg of my visit to Australia is not only because this state is host to the largest Malaysian Diaspora in Australia and the biggest group of Malaysians studying here, but also because of the close and long-standing economic, cultural and people-to-people links between Malaysia and Victoira," he said.

"Melbourne-based organisations such as Asialink and Asia Society are active in promoting relations with Malaysia and other Asian countries," he said.

The Prime Minister also noted that Victoria was the only Australian state to have an office in Malaysia, promoting business and other economic ties.

"In view of this close relationship, the Malaysian Government has agreed to establish a consulate-general office in Melbourne and we hope this office will not only be able to oversee the welfare of Malaysians here, but also to contribute to the efforts in enhancing the many areas of cooperation," Najib said.

Najib urged Australians to study in Malaysia, even if it was only for a year.

He said it would be a tremendous experience for the Australians and would help to promote better understanding of a close neighbour.

Najib said Melbourne was the city of choice for many Malaysians, including his Cabinet members, for their holidays.

"My visit to Victoria and the beautiful city of Melbourne compels me to take some time out of my tight schedule to see why Melbourne is so popular," he said.

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