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AKHBAR

KEMENTERIAN PERTAHANAN MALAYSIA

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2nd MALAYSIA-AUSTRALIA HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA -The Minister of Defence, YB Haji Mohamad bin Sabu and his counterpart, Senator the Honourable Linda Reynolds, Minister for Defence, Australia met in Canberra on 25th September 2019 to co-chair the 2nd Malaysia-Australia High Level Committee (HLC) meeting. The meeting was also attended by high ranking officials from both sides. The 2nd Malaysia-Australia HLC signified remarkable progress of the defence cooperation between both countries in various areas which were encapsulated by three Working Groups namely, Senior Executives' Consultation, Policy and Military Cooperation.

During the 2nd Malaysia-Australia HLC, both ministers discussed on a broad spectrum of issues particularly the dynamic global security challenges and reaffirmed their commitments to further enhance the defence cooperation between Malaysia and Australia. The meeting's wide-ranging and open discussion reflected the strength and breadth of the relationship and captured the shared interest of both countries in addressing the region's security challenges.

Both Ministers agreed that the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific further emphasised the ASEAN principles of centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity and respect for international law, which would contribute to the maintenance of peace, freedom, and prosperity. The Ministers also agreed to continue to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation between both countries and to share the lesson learned by their respective defence forces.

YB Haji Mohamad highlighted Malaysia's commitment to the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA). Both Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the stock-take team and the continued efforts to enhance the operational value of the exercises, including incorporating the elements of maritime security, counter-terrorism and cyber security.

Pursuant to the 1st Malaysia-Australia HLC meeting in Butterworth on 25 June 2018, both Ministers reiterated the importance of developing defence industry cooperation and agreed to establish the Defence Industry and Innovation Working Group under the HLC structure.

YB Haji Mohamad also expressed his appreciation to Australia for its commitment to increase the support for Malaysia's F/A Hornet. Both Ministers also agreed to increase the number of Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) seconded personnel into the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) from twelve (12) to fourteen (14), and the number of ADF personnel seconded to the MAF from seven (7) to eight (8); to create a new seconded position of a Royal Malaysian Air Force officer to undertake a twelve (12) month fellowship at the Australian Air Power Development Centre commencing in 2020; and

to provide a three (3) month fellowship at the Australian Sea Power Centre for the Royal Malaysian Navy starting in 2020. In addition, Minister Reynolds announced two additional defence scholarships for Malaysia, including a new civilian scholarship.

Malaysia and Australia have shared strong defence cooperation and this visit has provided more opportunities for both countries to enhance their existing relationship. Malaysia will host the next HLC meeting in 2020.

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Ministry of Defence Malaysia
25 September 2019

