



SENIOR MINISTER OF DEFENCE
MALAYSIA

PRESS STATEMENT

MEETING WITH HE GENERAL PRAWIT WONGSUWON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Today, I received HE General Prawit Wongsuwon, Deputy Prime Minister and Representative of the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand in the Ministry of Defence, Kuala Lumpur.

In my discussion with General Prawit, we deliberated over issues of common interest, which further strengthened the existing defence cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand. We agreed that it is crucial for us to maintain and enhance our close defence relations at all levels to avoid the exploitation of our common borders by acts of terror and violent extremists.

Both General Prawit and I have reached the following agreements :-

- Both the Malaysian Army and the Royal Thai Army have agreed to build **two (2) new Coordinated Border Posts (CBP)** to combat transnational crime and smuggling. The new posts are expected to be completed in 2022.
- **Military-to-military** cooperation between the **Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Thai Armed Forces** to be **increased** in the areas of training, courses, and joint exercises.
- Malaysia proposed to **elevate our defence cooperation in the Malacca Straits Patrol (MSP) to a Quadrilateral Ministerial Meeting** with the participation of the Defence Ministers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. This would be a valuable opportunity for the leaders to exchange views whilst providing guidance towards the future operationalisation of MSP. I am pleased to report that **General Prawit is highly supportive of our proposal, and we look forward to Thailand hosting the inaugural MSP Quadrilateral Ministerial Meeting.**
- Recognising the important contribution our **defence industries** makes to delivering military readiness, I have instructed the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, Dato' Sri Muez bin Abd Aziz to lead a delegation to Thailand to increase cooperation and synergy, therefore boosting our regional defence production capabilities.



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We also touched base on the **development of several key infrastructure projects at the border area** namely Road Alignment Linking Bukit Kayu Hitam (BKH) - Sadao Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complexes (CIQs), International Friendship Bridges and the Construction and Maintenance of a Single Barrier at Bukit Kayu Hitam / Dannok Common Border.

Furthermore, we discussed on **food security** and the impact of supply chain disruptions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically on food supplies to both Malaysia and Thailand. We agreed for our relevant agencies and Ministries to enhance cooperation and continuously strengthen Malaysia and Thailand's food security to remain stable under all circumstances.

Outcomes of the issues discussed that require inter-ministerial and/or inter-agency cooperation will be conveyed in the next Cabinet meeting.

Moving forward, General Prawit and I also renewed our commitments to supporting all efforts to working closely together in either sub-regional, bilateral and/or multilateral frameworks.

The bilateral meeting is held on the sidelines of the 55th General Border Committee (GBC) Malaysia-Thailand (MALTHAI) Meeting which will be convened later today.

YB DATO' SERI HISHAMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN
SENIOR MINISTER OF DEFENCE
26 MAY 2022