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**JOINT PRESS RELEASE  
OFFICIAL VISIT OF MINISTER OF DEFENCE INDIA TO MALAYSIA,  
9 – 12 JULY 2023**

The Minister of Defence of India, His Excellency Shri Rajnath Singh conducted his first official visit to Malaysia from 9 to 12 July 2023 since he took office in May 2019. The Minister of Defence India was accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Defence India. The purpose of the visit is part of the efforts of both leaders to further strengthen the existing and strong defence relations between the two countries since 1993.

His Excellency Shri Rajnath Singh had a productive interaction with YB Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, Minister of Defence at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), where both leaders acknowledged the strong bilateral relations and reaffirmed the commitments to further enhance defence cooperation, particularly in military-to-military cooperation and defence science, technology and industry.

During the session, both leaders agreed to the following:

- Strengthening defence cooperation between Malaysia and India by signing the Exchange of Letter (EoL) to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of India which was signed in 1993. This signing of EoL took place at Wisma Perwira ATM will facilitate more bilateral activities between all three military services in the future.
- Explore more collaboration between Malaysia and India in the interoperability of the two militaries in all three domains; land, sea, and air in the near future. The commonality of the defence assets between the two countries will elevate the cooperation, particularly in maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO);

- Establish the SU-30 Forum and the Strategic Affairs Working Group to elevate the cooperation between the two ministries. Senior officials and military personnel from both ministries will further engage to discuss matters related to defence using these platforms.

His Excellency Shri Rajnath Singh also had a call on the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim at the Prime Minister's Office. The purpose of the visit was to exchange views on various issues, especially in enhancing Malaysia-India bilateral defence relations as well as international and regional issues of shared concerns. After the meeting with the YAB Prime Minister, the YB Minister of Defence Malaysia hosted a luncheon for the Minister of Defence India at Wisma Perwira ATM.

His Excellency Shri Rajnath Singh has the honour to inaugurate the new Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Regional Office at Plaza Central, Kuala Lumpur. HAL is an Indian Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DSPU), akin to GLC in Malaysia. HAL will assume the role of a one-stop agency to facilitate collaboration between Indian and Malaysian companies. His Excellency Shri Rajnath Singh also took the time to meet with the Indian community at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The official visit to Malaysia by the Minister of Defence India reflected the importance of strong international defence relations as prescribed by the Third Pillar of the National Defence Strategy, which is on Credible Partnerships, as outlined by Malaysia's Defence White Paper (DWP).

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***"MALAYSIA MADANI"***

***"BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA"***

***"PERTAHANAN NEGARA TANGGUNGJAWAB BERSAMA"***

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**Ministry of Defence Malaysia**  
**10 July 2023**