

## Malaysian PM on visit

(KPL) Dato Seri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and his high-ranking delegation arrived here on 2 June for a two-day official goodwill visit to Laos at the invitation of Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and his delegation received an official welcome ceremony at the new building of the Prime Minister's Office on 3 June morning. Present at the ceremony were Mr. Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, National Assembly members, cabinet members, vice-mayor of Vientiane Capital, and high-ranking officials concerned. The Malaysian Ambassador to Laos was also on hand.

The host and visiting delegations held a bilateral meeting to further strengthen the friendly relation and co-operation between Laos and Malaysia on 3 June morning when the two sides informed each other of their respective social-economic development situation and shared their viewpoints on the common international and regional issues. The two sides also praised and highly valued the friendly relation and effective co-operation made by two countries' leaders in the past, especially the exchange visit of the high-ranking delegations of both countries. The Malaysian investment in Laos today has been increasing which ranks the 9th among the large foreign investors in Laos. The opening of direct flights between Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur has created a number of favorable conditions for communication and promoted tourism in the two countries.

The two leaders have reaffirmed to further enhance and strengthen their relation and co-operation in the framework of the bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

The Malaysian leader agreed to continue to provide assistance to Laos, especially in the field of human resource development under the Malaysian Technical Co-operation Programmer (MTCP) and the Malaysia Defiance Co-operation Programmer (MDCP). In addition, Malaysia will continue to promote the investment and co-operation with Laos in order to contribute to the socio-economic development and strengthen the friendly relations between Laos and Malaysia.

The two Premiers also witnessed the signing ceremony of three Memoranda of Understanding: the MoU on avoidance of double taxation and combating against avoidance of income tax collection signed by the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs, the MoU on high education co-operation and the MoU on sports co-operation signed by relevant ministers of both countries.

The two Premiers also attended a seminar of Lao and Malaysian businessmen and witnessed the signing ceremony for the investment in the Special Zone of Savanh-Seno and Houai Sahong hydropower plant construction in the southernmost province of Champassak held at Done Chanh Palace Hotel.