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Give Highest Priority On Economic Agenda, Diplomats Told

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Malaysia should grab the opportunity when the global economic situation saw all countries generally becoming more economically developed and some becoming more prosperous, the Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah said Monday night.

He said, thus the diplomacy must vest the highest priority on the economic agenda.

"Prospecting for greater economic opportunities not only in China and India but also elsewhere, will be our most important task," he said during a dinner with future heads of Malaysian foreign missions, here Monday night.

He said China and India, which were now on the rise again economically, would become the world's largest economy by 2030 if the current trend continued.

Raja Nazrin said India would not be far behind and become the third largest by 2050, while the United States, a superpower since the middle of last century would slip from its lone pedestal.

"Indeed the whole spectrum of creative diplomacy will be required to reduce suspicion, build trust and clarify issues that will help pave the path towards more cooperative ways to manage international issues," he said.

Also present were the Raja Puan Besar of Perak, Tuanku Zara Salim, Foreign Minister Datuk Anifah Aman and foreign dignitaries.

The dinner was held to honour the ambassadors designate who had completed the five-day orientation course for heads of mission and their spouses at the Institute of Foreign Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR).

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