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**Press Release**

**Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council funds return home of 10 Pakistanis**

Ten Pakistanis detained in Malaysia for immigration violations are set to celebrate the upcoming Eidul Fitar with their families in Pakistan following an offer by the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council to fund the cost of their return home.

The offer to finance the re-union of families in time for the Islamic festival was made by Datuk Mohamad Salim Fateh Din, Chairman of the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council, at an Iftar dinner hosted by the Council for trade representatives, Pakistani community members, Pakistani expatriates and members of the Malaysian-Pakistan Business Council which seeks to promote bilateral trade activities and investment between Malaysia & Pakistan. High Commissioner of Pakistan in Malaysia, Mr. Masood Khalid and prominent Malaysian and Pakistani businessmen were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Masood Khalid thanked the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council for extending help to the Pakistani detainees to reunite with their families in Pakistan. He also lauded various initiatives such as provision of financial assistance extended to special children by the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council and called for greater interaction between the Malaysian Business Council and its counterpart in Pakistan. He said a joint meeting of the two bodies was expected in November 2011 to coordinate efforts to promote bilateral trade and investment between the two brotherly countries.

Commenting on the bilateral trade between Malaysia and Pakistan, the High Commissioner said Pakistani products were steadily making their way into the Malaysian market. "Pakistani beef is already here and we are also seeing a substantial scope for the export of Pakistani fruits and vegetables to Malaysia," he said, referring to the popularity of Pakistani mangoes admired by the local Malaysians for their peculiar taste and succulence.

Earlier, Datuk Mohamad Salim Fateh Din vowed to continue spearheading efforts from the forum of Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council to promote bilateral trade and strengthen community relationships between its members and the Pakistani community in Malaysia. He also announced to provide assistance to seven single Malaysian mothers in the form of cash contributions to help them prepare for the forthcoming Eid celebrations.

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2011**