

--R E310 AAE

MALAYSIA-AID
BY REJAL ARBEE

Mahathir M. p

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TRIPOLI, DEC 12 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN TERMS OF SHARING ITS DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE TO LIBYA UNDER THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IT WAS NONETHELESS WILLING TO SHARE ITS DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE IN THE SPIRIT OF CONTRIBUTING TO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

SPEAKING AT THE SIGNING YESTERDAY OF THE AGREED MINUTES OF THE SECOND MALAYSIA-LIBYA JOINT COMMISSION AT THE GUEST HOUSE HERE, HE SAID IT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF CLOSER AND MORE MEANINGFUL BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE LEADER OF THE LIBYAN DELEGATION TO THE COMMISSION, DR ALI TREIKI, WHO IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SIGNED FOR HIS COUNTRY.

TENGGU RITHAUDDEEN SAID BOTH COUNTRIES NOW NEEDED TO MARSHALL THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING AND TAKING FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WHICH HE CHAIRED TOGETHER WITH DR TREIKI COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A MORE OPPORTUNE TIME, JUST PRECEDING THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, AS IT PROVIDED FURTHER FILLIP TOWARDS GREATER SUCCESS OF THE VISIT.

TENGGU RITHAUDDEEN SAID TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HELD GREAT PROMISE FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT HOLDING COMPANY. MALAYSIA HE SAID, WOULD WORK TOWARDS THE EARLY ACTIVATION OF THE COMPANY,

TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS NOW NEGLIGIBLE, REPRESENTING ONLY 0.008 PER CENT OF MALAYSIA'S TOTAL TRADE, WITH LIBYA IN FACT BEING THE SMALLEST TRADING PARTNER FOR MALAYSIA AMONG THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

IT WAS THUS SATISFYING THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO INCREASE THEIR TRADE AND THAT LIBYA HAD SHOWN INTEREST TOWARDS MALAYSIAN PRODUCE LIKE RUBBER, PALM OIL AND TIMBER.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, COULD ALSO SUPPLY MANUFACTURED AND SEMI MANUFACTURED GOODS LIKE AIRCONDITIONERS, RUBBER-BASED PRODUCTS, FOOD ITEMS AND ELECTRICAL GOODS. -- MORE

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TENGGU RITHAUDDEEN SAID EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION COULD ALSO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER THEREBY ENHANCING INTERACTION AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL.

LIBYA, TOGETHER WITH MANY OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, HAD CO-SPONSORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY AND MALAYSIA LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER COLLABORATION ESPECIALLY IN THE SETTING UP OF THE ENGINEERING FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY.

HE SAID THE UNIVERSITY WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO CONSOLIDATION OF THE UMMAH BUT STRENGTHEN PROPAGATION OF VALUES AND PHILOSOPHY OF ISLAM AND ITS TOTAL MEANING TO NON-MUSLIMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE SIGNING CEREMONY WAS HELD JUST BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DELEGATION LEFT LIBYA AFTER A FOUR-DAY VISIT. -- BERNAMA

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