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PARLIAMENT-CHINA
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 24 (BERNAMA) -- THE ROLE OF PERNAS AND THE SYSTEM OF ISSUING APPROVED PERMITS FOR IMPORTATION OF GOODS FROM CHINA HAVE NOT BLOCKED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER DIRECT TRADE WITH CHINA, THE DEWAN RAKYAT WAS TOLD TODAY.

DEPUTY TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN SAID THE SYSTEM IN FACT ENSURED THE SMOOTH CONDUCT OF TRADE BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CHINA.

HE SAID THIS WAS PROVEN BY THE VOLUME OF GOODS IMPORTED FROM CHINA WHICH HAD INCREASED YEARLY DESPITE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM.

IMPORTS ROSE FROM \$492.9 MILLION IN 1970 TO \$625.8 MILLION IN 1983 AND \$669.6 MILLION LAST YEAR.

ON PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S VISIT TO CHINA NEXT MONTH, HAJI MUHYIDDIN SAID MATTERS RELATING TO BILATERAL TRADE AND ECONOMY WOULD BE DISCUSSED. -- MORE

THE VISIT IS ALSO AIMED AT INCREASING DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MIGHT ALSO BRING UP CHINA'S PREFERENCE TO GO THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES SUCH AS HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE IN ITS TRADE WITH MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA
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