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Mahathir-cooperation ''''

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- The proposed cooperation involving four states in Peninsular Malaysia, provinces in Southern Thailand and North Sumatra is aimed at coordinating development, especially in the economic field. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Such coordination would enable the areas to be developed at a faster pace, he told reporters after launching the commemorative stamps for former Prime Ministers here.

He said discussions were being held with the two neighbouring countries (Thailand and Indonesia) on how and when such development cooperation could be implemented.

The Prime Minister was asked by reporters to outline the scope of cooperation following his announcement yesterday on the appointment of former Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin as the government's representative to lead the Malaysian delegation to talks on the formation of a northern growth triangle.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government wanted to have such cooperation in the North, as a similar cooperation already existed in the South, among Johor, Singapore and Batam in Indonesia.-- more

▼30/08/15-59MST

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Mahathir-cooperation 2 Kuala Lumpur ''''

Four states -- Kedah, Perlis, Pulau Pinang and Perak -- will be involved in the project.

Replving to a question, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the cooperation was not aimed a creating a free trade zone but merely to coordinate development in the areas.

The Prime Minister also said that his coming visit to Mexico was at the invitation of President Carlos Salinas de Cortari to discuss the possibility of stepping up cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of trade.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he wanted to learn more about the concept of North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA) while in Mexico.

He would later attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sept 24.-- Bernama

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