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PHILIPPINES' DECISION TO DROP SABAH CLAIM WILL HELP RELATIONS

Mahathir-Philippines

from Amer Hamzah Md Sap

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Philippines' decision to drop its claim to Sabah will help normalise relations between Malaysia and the Philippines.

He said he conferred with President Fidel Ramos on ways to improve bilateral relations.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after calling on Ramos at the Assara Guest House Complex here. Both leaders are here along with others to attend the silver jubilee celebrations of the reign of the Sultan of Brunei.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, who is also here, called on Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said both Ramos and he did not reach any substantive agreement but both countries would find ways to resolve the Sabah issue. -- more

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Mahathir-Philippines 2 (last) Bandar Seri Begawan

+We did not discuss details...but only how to find ways to resolve the issue to normalise relations,+ he said.

He also said that his discussions with Chuan Leekpai did not focus on anything specific.

On the possibility of the Asean leaders sitting down for a meeting together, Dr Mahathir said that would not be necessary because there were no pressing problems to address. -- Bernama

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