

CNS5809

R GE 02-04 00214 EG369

aae tbe

Mahathir-trade

M'SIA'S SOUTH-SOUTH EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL

from Abdul. Rahman Sulaiman 93

TASHKENT, April. 2, (Bernama) -- Malaysia's efforts at developing new trading partners among the developing nations of the South, aggressively pursued over the past several years, have proven to be successful, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today. ① Trip overseas

The Prime Minister told a joint press conference with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov here- that so far Malaysia had been very successful in its new trade relations with the Latin American countries, some countries in Africa, and Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

Dr Mahathir, who is concluding his three-day official visit to this Central Asia republic on a similar mission, said Kuala Lumpur regarded the newly independent countries of Central Asia as belonging to the same group of developing countries with great trade and economic potentials.

" Therefore, it is good for us to develop trade relations with these countries, " he explained in response to a question on the reason for his visit. here.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia, being a small country, was only interested to see that the countries of the South helped one another so that they would be less dependent on the major powers of the world. -- more

▼02/04/14-09MST

CNS5812

R GE 02-04 00164 EG370

aae tbe

Mahathir-trade 2 Tashkent

He said that in the past, Malaysia's trading partners had always been the rich countries of the north like Japan, Europe and the United States. "However, we now discover that they too can have economic problems which in turn affect the size of Malaysia's trade. Therefore, it is necessary for us to develop new trading partners among the developing countries of the South, " he added.

On Uzbekistan-Malaysia bilateral relations, the Prime Minister said it was his belief that both countries had certain potentials which could be developed for their mutual benefit if they were to work together.

Dr Mahathir, who over the past two days had had talks with Karimov, Prime Minister Abdul Hashim Mutalov and other Uzbek leaders, said he was very impressed with their openness.

"This was very encouraging and it augured well for the future relationship of the two countries, he said. -- more

▼02/04/14-11MST

CNS5815

R GE 02-04 00193 EG371

aae the

Mahathir-trade 3 (last) Tashkent

"If we are going to develop good economic and trading relations, it is important for leaders of the two countries not only to know each other but also to trust each other as friends," he stressed.

"There is no doubt there will be some immediate results out of this visit. But there will be clearer and more tangible results in the long term," he said.

President Karimov, who shared Dr Mahathir's views, said his country was only too happy to work together with Malaysia which he described as the fastest growing economy in the South East Asian region.

He said he personally had a very high regard for Dr Mahathir who he considered not only a great politician but also a brilliant economist.

"There are many politicians and diplomats in the world, but very few realistically minded economists. Dr Mahathir is one of them," he said.

Karimov said that under Dr Mahathir's able leadership, Malaysia was not only able to maintain political stability but also reform its economy, resulting in a better quality of life for its people. -- Bernama

▼02/04/14-18MST