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Mahathir-Albania

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 8 PM TODAY, JULY 12)

MALAYSIA OFFERS TRAINING FACILITIES TO ALBANIANS

from Zainoor Sulaiman <sup>93</sup>

TIRANA, July 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today offered training facilities to Albanians in areas where it has the expertise under its technical training programme, with the aim of enhancing bilateral relations. *trip overseas,*

In announcing the offer, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia was ready to share the experience and expertise it had accumulated in different aspects of economic management and planning, including the privatisation of government industries.

Speaking at the official luncheon hosted by his Albanian counterpart, Aleksander Meksi, at the Palace of Brigade, here, he said the government would also encourage the Malaysian private sector to participate in the economic development of Albania through investment and joint-venture in areas now open to foreign participation.

"As a country that has an open economy and practises the free enterprise system, Malaysia has an active private sector that has made significant contribution to the country's economic development," he said.

"Malaysian businessmen and entrepreneurs are encouraged to seek new markets and invest overseas in projects that could bring benefit to Malaysia and the country concerned," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-Albania I Tirana (embargo)

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit, had talks with Albanian leaders including Meksi and President Sali Berisha.

Describing the talks as "very useful," the Prime Minister said he was now better acquainted with Albania's policies and programmes for economic development to bring progress and prosperity to the people in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy.

"It is indeed a daunting task to undertake...a task that not only requires enormous capital and know-how but also a new frame of mind and attitude," he said.

He said Malaysia had gone through such an experience when, upon achieving independence in 1957, it had to undertake a series of development programmes to alleviate poverty and to transform the economy from mere dependence on export of primary commodities to one that was diversified, with strong emphasis on processing and manufacturing industries.

Its efforts succeeded due to a combination of several factors, among them the right policies, hard work and discipline, political stability and the ability of the different ethnic and religious groups that make up the Malaysian population to work together as a nation, he said.

"Today the people of Malaysia are enjoying one of the highest standards of living among developing countries and are confident of achieving our goal of becoming a developed country by the year 2020," he said. -- more

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Speaking on the latest development in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr Mahathir said "Albania's close proximity to this horrendous scene of genocide and ethnic cleansing (by the Serbs) had understandably caused acute concern to your country as it does to us in Malaysia."

He said the unwillingness of the major powers to take resolute and decisive action to put an end to the open aggression against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the blatant abuse of human rights of the Bosnian people, was totally incomprehensible and unacceptable.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia also shared Albania's anxiety and concern over other developments in the former Yugoslavia, especially the situation in Kosovo where, the population, mostly of Albanian descent, was being put under tremendous pressure by the Serbs.

"We agree that preventive action should be initiated for the peace and stability of the Balkans and the region," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is accompanied by Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, later visited Durres port and the amphitheatre near here.

This morning, Dr Siti Hasmah visited a children's welfare home and toured a carpet factory. -- Bernama

ZS MGN

12/07/12-24MST