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Mahathir

MORE MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN INVITED TO INVEST IN MALTA

From Wan A. Hulaimi

VALLETTA (Malta), Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Maltese Prime Minister Dr Eddie Fenech-Adami wants more Malaysian businessmen to come here to strengthen commercial links between the two countries.

This desire was expressed by the Prime Minister in his meeting with Dr Mahathir who is on a brief stopover here before attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus.

During his short courtesy call to the Maltese Prime Minister's office here, Dr Mahathir discussed bilateral relations and the desirability of extending further cooperation between the two countries.

Dr Fenech-Adami mentioned to Dr Mahathir that so far, one Malaysian businessman from Penang, Albert Tan, has already acquired a 21 per cent stake in the local Lombard Bank, and he would like to see more members of the Malaysian business community coming here.

To date, Malaysia and Malta have already set in motion two frameworks for future agreements -- the avoidance of double taxation agreement, which was initialled earlier; and the air services agreement, signed in Kuala Lumpur on Oct 12. -- more

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REPEAT

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It is understood that MAS is interested in calling at Malta Luqa Airport subject to its acquiring landing rights at Rome.

In response to Dr Fenech-Adami's request for more business links, Dr Mahathir said that he too would like to see more Malaysian businessmen coming here to establish links and to use Malta as a stepping stone to the European Community and the Maghreb market.

Malta is now an EC associate member and is expected to be given full membership soon.

As another step towards future cooperation, Dr Fenech-Adami offered training facilities for Malaysians at Malta's International Maritime Law Institute, which is attached to the University of Malta.

On tourism, Dr Mahathir told Dr Fenech-Adami that Malta had not yet tapped the Asian and Latin American tourism market. -- more

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REPEAT

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During the meeting, the Maltese Prime Minister also expressed full support for the Commonwealth Consultative Group for Technology Management (CCGTM) which is now chaired by Malaysia's Prof Omar Abdul Rahman.

Also present at the meeting at the Prime Minister's office at the Auberge de Castille were Maltese Prime Minister's Director of the Asia Department and the Director of Air Malta.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his small entourage visited the Trade Centre, in the industrial district of San Gwan where he was briefed by the director of Malta's Export Trade Cooperation (Metco) Encik Alex Agius Ceasareo.

Trade between Malaysia and Malta is miniscule, accounting for only about 0.01 per cent of Malaysia's total trade. Malaysia buys tools and foodstuff from here. -- Bernama

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