

Malaysia to share its skills with Vietnam

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaysia is prepared to share its experience and expertise in development with Vietnam, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Malaysia wanted its neighbours to be developed and prosperous and, therefore, would not hesitate to offer any form of assistance to them.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Dr Mahathir made this pledge during discussions with Communist Party of Vietnam General-Secretary Do Muoi this afternoon.

He said the Prime Minister said Malaysia would be able to export and import products from its neighbours if these countries were developed and prosperous.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting between the two leaders, Abdullah said Dr Mahathir told the Vietnamese leader that Malaysia was willing to assist Vietnam if there were plans to assemble or manufacture cars.

He said Dr Mahathir explained the country's rural development programme and its industrialisation

and the privatisation concept.

"Do Muoi was pleased with the development of the country and was confident that Malaysia would be an industrialised country by the year 2020," he said.

Abdullah said Malaysia was already actively participating in Vietnam and was involved in the petroleum, construction and hotel industries.

He said the volume of trade between the two countries was on the increase.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir also told Do Muoi that

Vietnam could send its citizens here for specialised training in technical and other courses.

He said both leaders exchanged experiences in development.

Do Muoi also told Dr Mahathir that Vietnam was willing to participate in all regional forums that would help further build countries in the region.

Do Muoi and a 33-member delegation including politicians, businessmen and journalists arrived here this morning and were met on arrival by Abdullah.

They are here on a four-

day official visit aimed at intensifying bilateral and economic relations between Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi.

Do Muoi was later given an official welcome at Parliament Square, being greeted on arrival by Dr Mahathir.

Do Muoi, accompanied by Dr Mahathir, inspected a guard of honour mounted by 104 officers and men of the Royal Malay Regiment First Battalion led by Major Mohamed Arrifin Saimun.

The Royal Armour Corp band also played the national anthems of both countries.