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Mahathir-Zimbabwe

MALAYSIA AND ZIMBABWE POISED FOR GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION

From Zainoor Sulaiman 94

HARARE, April 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrives here tomorrow to chart a new chapter in economic co-operation between Malaysia and Zimbabwe. *oversers trips*

Heading a delegation of 15 senior government officials and 40 representatives from the private sector, he would be holding talks with President Robert Mugabe to identify new avenues to enhance bilateral co-operation and trade between the two countries.

The two leaders will witness the signing of three bilateral agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation, Investment Guarantee and Air Services.

"These agreements are expected to serve as a platform for increasing trade and investment between Malaysia and Zimbabwe," a senior Wisma Putra official said here.

During his five day visit, Dr Mahathir has been invited to officiate the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZIFT) 1994 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city, about 450 kilometres east of here. -- more

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Mugabe has described the visit as one that would greatly enhance bilateral co-operation between the two countries.

"Malaysia and Zimbabwe are poised for a vast improvement in their relations in all fields," he said in his message to participants of ZIFT 1994.

More than 1,000 companies from 33 countries are taking part in the trade fair, ZIFT General Manager Graham Rowe.

"ZIFT 1994 is set to be a far more positive event compared to the one last year following improvement in the local and world economies," he added.

Participants from Malaysia are Edaran Otomobil Nasional Berhad (EON), Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Berhad (Proton), Silverstone Tire and Rubber Co.Sdn.Bhd., Berjaya Group Berhad, Mechmar Boilers Sdn.Bhd., Petronas, UMW Corporation Sdn.Bhd., L.B. Food Sdn. Bhd., DMIB Bhd., Alinamin (Malaysia) Sdn.Bhd., Intraco Hardware (M) Sdn. Bhd., Welding Industries (M) Sdn.Bhd., Orgavyl Chemical Industries Sdn.Bhd. and the Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council. -- more

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The presence of the large number of private sector representatives reflected the strong desire of Malaysia to further develop trade and business co-operation between the two countries.

Apart from attending the trade fair, Malaysian businessmen would meet their Zimbabwean counterparts to promote trade and joint ventures.

The present volume of trade between the two countries is small, totalling RM19.4 million in 1993 with the balance in Malaysia's favour. --

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