

aae tbe

EMBARGO: For use after 10 tonight, May 26

Mahathir-Tunisia

MALAYSIA TO OPEN TRADE OFFICE IN TUNISIA

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will open a trade office in Tunisia soon to boost two-way direct trade.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who announced this, also welcomed Tunisia's intention to open a similar office in Kuala Lumpur.

Cooperation between developing countries, especially at the South-South level, offered great potentials for trade, investment and exchanges of technologies, he said at a dinner he hosted for visiting Tunisian Prime Minister Dr Hamed Karoui at his residence Seri Perdana here tonight.

Dr Karoui arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit, the first by a Tunisian head of government.

Dr Mahathir expressed confidence the memorandum of understanding which Malaysia and Tunisia signed this morning would help increase direct trade between the two countries.

The memorandum provides a framework to foster economic and technical cooperation. -- more

ZV CTL

▼26/05/20-26MST

CNS7367

R GE 26-05 00149 EH611

aae tbe

Mahathir-Tunisia 2 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

"Malaysia is prepared to cooperate and contribute to the improvement of Tunisia's economy," he said.

Although Malaysia was not a large capital-exporting country, it was still ready to share its expertise in specific areas, he added.

He viewed with keen interest the efforts by the Tunisian government in economic and political reforms and felt certain the country would achieve greater progress and prosperity in time to come.

Dr Mahathir also said he was disappointed with the failure to resolve the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina where the violation of basic human rights had never been more obvious.

"So often we see decisions which affect many are being made by a privileged few," he said, adding that Malaysia was concerned about the way global issues were being handled. -- more

ZV CTL

▼26/05/20-44MST

CNS7378

R GE 26-05 00163 EH612

aae tbe

Mahathir-Tunisia 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

Dr Mahathir called for a more democratic process in reaching decisions on international issues and an end to the monopoly of the peace process in Bosnia.

Other countries must be allowed a say in the peace negotiations, he said.

"Threatening one side to accept peace or face being massacred is not the way to conduct negotiations," he added.

He said that while Malaysia believed the United Nations provided the appropriate mechanism to create a more just new world order, the Goradze incident in Bosnia had caused Malaysia to lose faith in the credibility of the UN to help weaker nations.

The massacres in Rwanda again highlighted the weakness of the UN in tackling violations of human rights.

It was most disappointing that the UN was only used when the interest of specific sides were involved, he added. -- Bernama

ZV CTL