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Egypt

M'SIA-EGYPT RELATIONS ENTER NEW ERA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 21 (Bernama) -- Egypt wants to forge closer relations with Malaysia in trade and investment, areas which have not been receiving due attention thus far.

This message from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was conveyed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa today.

"Malaysia and Egypt are on the threshold of a new era in their relations," said Moussa after calling on Dr Mahathir at his office here.

He said contacts of all kinds would be stepped up, especially with the revival of the Malaysia-Egypt Joint Commission. The commission will hold a ministerial-level meeting in Cairo later this year.

"Dr Mahathir has also been invited to visit Egypt," he said, adding that the Prime Minister had, likewise, extended an invitation to Mubarak to visit Malaysia.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Dr Mahathir and Moussa also discussed various issues of mutual interest such as the G-15 (developing countries), the Non-Aligned Movement and the image of Muslims in the world.

"The Prime Minister said the image of Muslims is not that satisfactory as it is often connected with acts of violence and extremism," he said.

Abdullah added that Dr Mahathir said it was the responsibility of all Muslims to rectify this.

Moussa ends his three-day visit to Malaysia today. -- BERNAMA

MAM LDB