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Kazakhstan-Malaysia

KAZAKHSTAN AND MALAYSIA SIGN THREE AGREEMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Bernama) -- Kazakhstan and Malaysia today signed three agreements to promote economic, trade and investment ties.

The agreements are on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation; Trade; and Promotion and Protection of Investment.

The signing was witnessed by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi signed the first agreement and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz signed the other two while Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev represented his government.

Speaking to reporters, Abdullah said Malaysia expects to sign another four agreements with Kazakhstan during Dr Mahathir's visit to the country later this year.

The future agreements will cover air services, partial abolition of visa, avoidance of double taxation and bilateral payment.

Nazarbayev is on the second day of a four-day state visit to Malaysia.

According to Abdullah, during the delegation meeting held at the Prime Minister's Department earlier, Kazakhstan invited Malaysians to invest in the construction of its new capital of Akmola, and airport and rail projects.

The Kazakhstan Foreign Minister said his country is keen to take part in the proposed Asia-Europe rail link from Singapore to Europe through China, Kazakhstan and Iran.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir offered Kazakhstan 20 places for its students in Malaysian universities.

Trade between Malaysia and Kazakhstan totalled RM11.5 million last year. -- BERNAMA

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