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Mahathir-Kazakh

MAHATHIR AND KAZAKHSTAN PRESIDENT HOLD BILATERAL TALKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held talks today with Kazakhstan President Nur Sultan Nazarbayev who called for more Malaysian investments to help the former Soviet republic's continuing transformation to a free market economy.

The two leaders, who met at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang where Nazarbayev made a stopover on his way home after visiting Australia, also discussed Kazakhstan's request for Malaysia to establish an air link with the central Asian country.

Malaysia would study the request, Dr Mahathir told reporters after the one-hour meeting which was also attended by Economic Planning Unit Director-General Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia offered to train another 20 Kazakhstan officials in various areas, including economic planning.

Thirteen Kazakhstan officials had previously been trained in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would also help Kazakhstan in its planning to establish a new national capital at Akmoly, about 1,000km from the present capital Almaty.

During his visit to Kazakhstan last July, he had invited Kazakhstan technocrats to Malaysia to study the development of the federal government's new administrative centre at Putrajaya. -- BERNAMA

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