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Mahathir-Poland

MALAYSIA READY TO WORK AND SHARE WITH POLAND

KUALA LUMPUR, March 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is ready to work closely with Poland and share with it experiences gained in the fields of privatisation, banking, management and administration, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

At the same time, the Prime Minister said Malaysia welcomed Poland's invaluable cooperation in the area of science and technology for which it has great expertise and know-how, including in precision and civil engineering.

"The development of joint projects in these areas could provide yet another firm link for the intensification of bilateral relations," Dr Mahathir said at a dinner in honour of visiting Polish Prime Minister Dr Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz at Sri Perdana here.

Dr Cimoszewicz, accompanied by his wife, Barbara, arrived here today for a three-day official visit.

His delegation includes First Deputy Finance Minister Krzysztof Kallicki, First Deputy National Defence Minister Andrzej Karkoszeka, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Mroziewicz, senior government officials and members of the private sector.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia noted with keen interest the programmes of economic transformation in Poland through privatisation and liberalisation.

He said the Malaysian private sector, which has over the years gained considerable experience and developed expertise in investments and business overseas, would be encouraged to participate in joint ventures with their Polish counterparts for mutual benefit.

In this context, he said a leading Malaysian company established a liaison office in Krakow, Poland, last year to secure trading opportunities for Malaysian products and services.

The move is a recognition of Poland's central location as a springboard to the regional markets as well as to complement the overall efforts to increase trade links with Poland and its surrounding countries.

"Likewise, I would like to invite Polish companies to increase their presence in Malaysia and also to expand trade links with us and the neighbouring countries, using Malaysia as a gateway to the Asean and East Asian markets," he said.

At the multilateral level, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia and Poland were committed to international cooperation and the promotion of peace and stability.

He said Malaysian and Polish soldiers were participating in IFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina to help implement the military aspects of the peace agreement.

"We hope that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will be able to enjoy true peace and rebuild their shattered homes and lives," he said.

He said the Polish people too had experienced much of the bitterness of war, destruction, massacres and foreign occupation in European history.

In this regard, Dr Mahathir said the exceptional determination and courage of the Poles to reconstruct and resuscitate the nation in the face of great trials and difficulties would surely serve as a shining inspiration to the Bosnians as they began their own process of healing and reconstruction.

In his speech, Dr Cimoszewicz said Poland would like to considerably expand collaboration in the information field and intensify contacts in

science, sports and tourism.

On economic relations, he said, Poland would like to lay greater emphasis on the creation of joint ventures, technological cooperation and joint development research projects and also transfer of technology and know-how.

"I am also very happy that we have signed agreements, so important for the two sides, which will exert a significant impact on the development of mutual cooperation," he said.

He said it was particularly worth noting that trade between the two countries had been consistently increasing since the early 1990's with volume in 1995 amounting to US\$120 (RM300 million). --BERNAMA

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