

23 NOV 1996

M'SIA PLEDGES MORE INVESTMENT IN MINDANAO

MANILA, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today assured Philippine President Fidel Ramos of more Malaysian investments in Mindanao now that the conflict between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front had been resolved.

Ramos and Mahathir held discussions here this afternoon, the details of which were issued to the Press through a statement later.

It said Ramos acknowledged Dr Mahathir's remarks that the former's administration could now concentrate on other matters that would boost the country's economic development.

Ramos also informed Dr Mahathir that the Philippine government was determined and sincere to talk peace with other armed groups in Mindanao, particularly the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"I hope this will pave the way for more investments in Mindanao from other Asean countries," Ramos was quoted as saying.

The leaders expressed satisfaction over the pace of their two countries' political and economic relations.

They also vowed to fast-track the development of the East Asean Growth Area in an effort to improve the lives of the people in the growth corridor.

Both of them also discussed some issues concerning the on-going Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum whose leaders will meet in Subic Bay on Monday. -- BERNAMA

MAM LDB