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Croatia

TWO AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED BY MAHATHIR DURING HIS VISIT TO CROATIA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 28 (Bernama) -- Agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and abolishment of visa between Malaysia and Croatia will be signed during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Croatia next month.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said today the move would facilitate economic and tourism growth between the two countries.

Treaties on scientific and technical cooperation as well as on cultural cooperation could probably also be signed during the visit if negotiations were completed by then, he told a press conference here.

Malaysia and Croatia had earlier signed an investment guarantee agreement.

Granic also indicated Croatia's interest in importing the Malaysian national car, Proton, in the near future and assemble them at a later stage.

He said Malaysia could use Croatia as a springboard for the export of Proton cars and palm oil to central and eastern Europe.

Croatian President Franco Tudjman and Dr Mahathir were expected to discuss trilateral relations issues concerning Croatia, Bosnia and Malaysia, especially the proposed establishment of a corporate body.

The corporate entity, made up of companies from the three countries, would participate in the redevelopment of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Granic hoped Croatia could participate in the development of coastal highways and the Bakun hydro-electric project in Malaysia.

On the latest peace development in the Balkan states, he reiterated his country's commitment to the implementation of the Bosnian Federation and the Dayton Peace Accord.

But, he admitted that there were some rejection at the local level in several areas, including Sarajevo and Mostar, where the hatred among the people persisted as the result of the war.

He was, however, optimistic that with the continued support of the Croatian government the problem could be solved as the majority of the people opted for the federation.

Granic also thanked Malaysia for its participation in the Implementation Force (Ifor) in the former Yugoslavia.

Earlier, Granic, who ends his three-day official visit to Malaysia today, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the latter's office at the Finance Ministry. -- BERNAMA

JM LDB