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Clinton-Malaysia
US LAUDS MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 1 (Bernama) -- United States President Bill Clinton yesterday commended Malaysia on its impressive economic growth which had contributed to the increase in two-way economic and commercial ties.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr) Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's economy has grown at an impressive pace. Other nations would do well to learn from the example of your free market economy," he said.

Clinton said this in his statement in reply to a statement by newly-appointed Malaysian ambassador to the US Datuk Dali Mahmud Hashim, who presented his credentials to the American president during a ceremony in Washington yesterday.

The statements were not read out but merely exchanged in accordance with US protocol practice.

Clinton said Malaysia was his country's 13th largest trading partner, with the US being Malaysia's largest foreign investor and export market as well as second largest trading partner.

He said American companies, which had played a role in Malaysia's growth, would continue to play their part to make Dr Mahathir's Vision 2020 a reality.

Clinton added that the US was looking forward to continue working with Malaysia in the World Trade Organisation and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation to the advance common goal of trade expansion, growth and development.

The US, said Clinton, valued Malaysia's exemplary role in peacekeeping operations and would like to work together in the economic reconstruction and military stabilisation of Bosnia Herzegovina.

"The US views Malaysia as a very strong regional and international leader, one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic economies and a valuable partner," he said.

Meanwhile, Dali said the two countries should build upon the positive and avoid letting minor "irritants" impact negatively on the overall expanding and mutually beneficial relationship.

He replaced former ambassador Datuk Abdul Majid Mohamed. -- BERNAMA
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