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Viet-Assembly

VIET ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO BOOST TIES WITH MALAYSIA

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HANOI, Sept 10 (Bernama) -- The visit by Vietnam's National Assembly chairman Nong Duc Manh to Malaysia, starting today, is set to further boost bilateral relations between the two Asean countries.

Malaysian ambassador Cheah Sam Kip said the five-day official visit by Manh is another important milestone in the government-to-government relations.

He said it was hoped that the first visit by Manh, at the invitation of Malaysia's Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Zahir Ismail, would be part of the opening of a new dimension of cooperation between the two countries.

It would also help the two legislatures to understand more about each other, he told Bernama here. Zahir visited Vietnam in early 1993.

Cheah said: "The strength in Malaysia-Vietnam relations lies not only in Malaysia's economic presence but also in other areas of cooperation as well as people-to-people interaction."

Manh, who is a member of the powerful political bureau of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam, is leading a 15-member delegation including four members of the National Assembly which is the country's highest lawmaking body.

During his stay in Malaysia, he is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Zahir.

Besides attending briefings at the Economic Planning Unit and the Forest Research Institute, the Vietnamese leader will also tour several industrial sites including the Perodua car plant and a Sapura electronics factory.

Malaysia is the seventh largest foreign investor in Vietnam with over US\$900 million (RM2.25 billion) invested in 48 projects. -- BERNAMA

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