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Bosnia-Market

BOSNIA IS A READY BRIDGE FOR MALAYSIAN GOODS

By: Zainal Abidin Bujal

SARAJEVO, Feb 3 (Bernama) -- Bosnia-Herzegovina is always ready to act as a bridge for Malaysian-made goods and a suitable base to penetrate the European market, co-chairman of its Council of Ministers Dr Haris Silajdzic said today.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists here, Silajdzic said: "Malaysian businessmen can make good use of our free industrial zone and participate in activities such as car assembly, and the manufacture of telecommunications equipment."

He said opportunities suitable for potential Malaysian businessmen were limitless as Malaysians had always been regarded one of Bosnia's best friends.

"What we need here is more infrastructures such as roads, telecommunications and railway system and the government is intensifying efforts to further develop the general business climate to attract foreign investment," he said.

Siladzic stressed that Malaysian businessmen and investors would be given special priority in his country as a gesture of its appreciation for Malaysia's assistance in times of war and peace.

The former prime minister said conditions might not be too good as the country was now experiencing a period of peace after a long ethnic war, but Bosnia needed a steady flow of foreign investments, particularly from friendly nations like Malaysia, as a long-term plan.

He said Malaysians were welcome to be involved in its reconstruction programmes to re-build houses and other amenities destroyed during the war.

He said Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had many followers here and the Bosnians had high regard for him.

"If Malaysia has been successful in maintaining peace and racial harmony, I don't see any reason why we can't borrow Malaysia's success and experiences in creating political stability and a strong economic growth for the good of the Bosnian people," he said.

Silajdzic said his people appreciated Malaysia's firm support towards their struggle and sufferings and hoped that the leaders and people of Malaysia would continue to do so to help restore peace and order and help them regain political independence along with economic growth and recognition from the international community.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, in addressing Malaysian troops at Livna camp, Malcon 3 headquarters, here, reminded them to safeguard Malaysia's good name in discharging their duties in the Balkan state.

He said each Malcon 3 member, who started serving here last December, must display high professionalism and fair play to command respect.

"The contributions of our troops under the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) now and prior to this are highly regarded by the international community," he said.

"Hence, you must all enhance the quality of service to do your country proud," he added.

At the function, Syed Hamid handed over Hari Raya food parcels to Malcon 3 commander Kol Abdul Aziz Zainal. He also handed over food parcels to ACP Megat Waris Megat Hashim for distribution to 29 senior Royal Malaysia Police officers and 21 others serving with the International Police Task Force (IPTF). -- BERNAMA

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