

17/12/1997

Dr M and Korean PM exchange views on depreciating currencies

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held bilateral talks with his South Korean counterpart Koh Kun where the two leaders exchanged views on the depreciation of their respective currencies.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Dr Mahathir wanted to know the developments in South Korea since it accepted the International Monetary Fund aid package.

"Dr Mahathir was told that when the crisis happened, the Koreans were quick to demonstrate their support and discipline, and were confident of the Korean Government."

"Even the election campaigns were manageable and free from undesired comments," Abdullah told a press conference yesterday.

He also said these efforts helped the country towards solving its economic problems.

Abdullah also said the Korean women went to the extent of collecting 1,000 kilos of gold to indicate their support especially for small enterprises and banks.

"The South Korean Government also wants to increase bilateral trade with Malaysia and other countries," Abdullah said.

On a separate bilateral meeting between Dr Mahathir and Laotian Prime Minister Gen Khamtay Siphandone, Abdullah said the discussion was more on the proposed Trans-Asian railway project.

"The discussion was on how Laos can be included in the train project under the Mekong Basin Development programme."

"Laos has asked for the train services to include its parameters since they want to improve their own transport infrastructure."

"Train transportation is crucial for Laos since it does not have a port," Abdullah said.

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