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FORTY COMPANIES TO TAKE PART IN EXHIBITION IN JEDDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June (Bernama) -- Forty Malaysian companies, including Proton, will exhibit their products at the Jeddah International Exhibition Centre from June 8 to 13 in a move to bring in Malaysian-made products to the Saudi Arabian market.

A press release from the Malaysian Consulate General in Jeddah received by Bernama here today, said the exhibition is expected to be officiated by Mecca governor, Amir Majed Abdul Aziz.

Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) chief executive Samsuddin Marsop is also expected to attend.

Malaysia's Consul-General in Jeddah, Syed Hussein Al Habshee, said it was hoped that the exhibition would be able to introduce to the Saudi Arabian market high quality Malaysian products which could compete with the large number of products from the US and Europe available in that country.

Syed Hussein said there were good chances of Malaysian products penetrating the Saudi Arabian market in large volumes as Malaysia was highly regarded by top entrepreneurs in that country, especially the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He also hoped that the exhibition would increase exports of Malaysian and Saudi Arabian goods in the future because Saudi Arabia was Malaysia's major trade partner in the Middle East.

For the first 11 months last year, total trade between the two countries stood at US\$599.9 million with Malaysia's imports in the same period amounting to US\$309.2 million.

Malaysia's main imports from Saudi Arabia were petroleum (55 percent), plastic (11.2 percent) and chemicals (10.2 percent).

In the same period, Malaysia's exports to Saudi Arabia totalled US\$290.7 million with palm oil being the main export commodity (29 percent) followed by manufactured goods (16 percent) and telecommunication and electronics equipment (7.0 percent).

Syed Hussein said MATRADE's effort in organising the exhibition was timely because the current relationships between the two countries were very good, especially after Dr Mahathir's visit last December. The prime minister was also awarded the Malek Faeisal award from the Saudi Arabian government. -- BERNAMA

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