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Tung-Visit

HONG KONG WANTS STRONGER RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA, ASEAN, SAYS TUNG

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Hong Kong Special Administrative Region chief executive Tung Chee-hwa said today the former British colony wants to strengthen its trade relations with Malaysia and the other Asean nations.

"It is an important relationship which we want to strengthen," he told reporters here after meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department, here.

Tung is on a two-day working visit here. Earlier he met Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at his office.

He said trade between Hong Kong and Malaysia had been growing at about 25 per cent annually, and that with the Asean nations at 21 per cent annually, over the last five years.

He said Malaysia was chosen as the first stop of his overseas trip since becoming the territory's leader "as it the chair of the Asean nations, so it is appropriate to visit Malaysia."

On his discussions with Dr Mahathir and Anwar, Tung said: "It was a very useful discussion."

Tung said he also briefed the prime minister on the transition in Hong Kong since its handover to China on July 1.

"It (transition) has been smooth and all the three branches of the government in Hong Kong, the executive, legislature and the judiciary, are all working very well and we are moving forward with pride and confidence.

"Hong Kong is moving forward very well," he added. -- BERNAMA

RAZ Jk