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MACEDONIAN PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR HOME

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov left for home today after a four-day state visit which saw the signing of two agreements to expand bilateral trade, economic and industrial cooperation with Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali made a farewell call on Gligorov and his wife Dr Nada Gligorova at their hotel suite before their departure.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, the minister-in-attendance, was present.

Malaysia was among the first Asia-Pacific countries to recognise the Balkan state in 1992 following its emergence as a free and independent nation of the former Yugoslavia.

At a press conference here yesterday, Gligorov said more joint banking services and other related facilities should be established to boost trade between Macedonia and Malaysia.

Although there was already high level of political co-operation between the two nations, similar understanding had yet to be reflected in trade, he said.

He also invited Malaysian businessmen to participate in the country's ongoing privatisation programme in nickel and zinc production, among other things. -- BERNAMA

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