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Anwar-Djibouti

MALAYSIA MAY SEND REP TO DJIBOUTI'S ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will consider sending a representative to Djibouti's Round Table Conference which will be held at the end of this month to discuss the reconstruction of the African republic's economy, a foreign ministry official said today.

"Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim gave an assurance to Djibouti's Foreign Minister Mohamed Moussa Chehem that Malaysia may send a representative to the meeting," said the ministry's undersecretary for Southeast Asia and Pacific, Mohamad Arshad Hussain.

He was briefing reporters on a 30-minute meeting between Anwar and Mohamed Moussa at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Mohamed Moussa also handed over a letter from Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled Aptidon to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, inviting Malaysia to send a delegation to the conference.

The conference is scheduled for May 29 and 30 but the venue has yet to be ascertained.

Mohamed Moussa and Anwar also discussed bilateral relations, trade opportunities and cooperation between the two countries, said Mohamad Arshad.

He said Djibouti was also lobbying for other Asean countries to attend the round table conference.

Mohamad Arshad said the visiting minister also sought Anwar's help in securing loans for Djibouti's economic development from the Islamic Development Bank. Anwar is one of the bank's board members.

Mohamed Moussa also invited Malaysian leaders and businessmen to visit Djibouti and explore trade and investment opportunities there.

The Djibouti minister ends his four-day visit to Malaysia today. This is the first visit by a minister from that country since bilateral ties were established in 1994.

Djibouti, which has a population of only 580,000, is located in north-eastern Africa and shares common borders with Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. -- BERNAMA

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