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Abdullah-Croatia

MALAYSIA TO HELP UNEMPLOYED CROATIAN SOLDIERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will send a delegation led by senior officials of the Economic Planning Unit to Croatia to identify smallscale industries which can be set up in that country to help its ex-servicemen, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said Croatian Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa requested for such help in his talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department here. Matesa arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit.

"Dr Mahathir agreed to the request and the EPU delegation will leave for Croatia as soon as possible," he said when briefing the press on the talks between the two leaders.

Dr Mahathir also met members of Matesa's delegation which included the economic, tourism, foreign affairs, transport and communication ministers as well as representatives of shipping and electronic industry companies.

Abdullah said Matesa made the proposal on small scale industries for ex-servicemen because if the war veterans were not helped, it give would give rise to many problems in his country.

The two leaders also agreed that their countries cooperate actively in such areas as power generation, shipbuilding and construction.

They also agreed that private companies implement various economic projects that had been agreed to earlier among Malaysia, Croatia and Bosnia.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir had assured the Croatian leader that he would encourage Malaysian private companies to set up industries in that country.

He said the Croatian Prime Minister had also agreed to permit Malaysia's Air Asia to fly to that country's capital city of Zagreb. Malaysia Airlines also has landing rights in that city.

Follow-up discussions on this would be held between Malaysian Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Croatian officials.

Dr Mahathir thanked Croatia for importing Malaysian built cars which were enjoying a good market there. -- BERNAMA

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