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Malaysia-Pakistan

MALAYSIA TO SHARE ITS EXPERIENCE IN PRIVATISATION WITH PAKISTAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has invited Pakistan to study the country's successful implementation of its privatisation policy in efforts to further enhance their existing close bilateral ties.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that Pakistani officials would be offered facilities to attend relevant courses in the country.

He said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the offer when Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called on him at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

"Pakistan is interested to learn from us the various aspects relating to privatisation as we have vast experience in the field," he told reporters after the meeting which was followed by talks between delegations from the two countries.

Abdullah said that the two prime ministers agreed that bilateral cooperation should be further expanded in the fields of science and technology, education and defence.

The Pakistani Prime Minister, who arrived here yesterday for a four-day visit, is scheduled to attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department.

Abdullah said that the discussion between Dr Mahathir and Nawaz centred on development policies and approaches adopted in the country.

He said that Pakistan also expressed its desire to encourage the participation of the private sector in its nation-building just like under the Malaysia Incorporated concept implemented in Malaysia.

The two prime ministers later witnessed the signing of an agreement between Inno-Enhance Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Larut Consolidated Berhad, and the Punjab government and the Punjab Industrial Board for the setting up of an export-processing zone in Pakistan.

A memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation between the two countries was also signed after the talks by the two delegations. Malaysia was represented by Defence Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Azizan Husain while Pakistan was represented by its Defence Secretary Lt Gen Iftikhar Ali Khan.

Abdullah said that defence was a new field of cooperation between the two countries and it would cover training of officers and possibly cooperation in the defence industry.

He said that in the field of education, Dr Mahathir expressed the hope that Pakistan would provide places at its institutions of higher learning to Malaysian students to pursue medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

The two leaders, he said, also discussed regional issues including Asean.

Dr Mahathir, he said, welcomed Pakistan's new status as a sectoral dialogue partner of Asean to further promote trade ties between that country and Asean.

Abdullah said that Pakistan also expressed interest to become a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum and the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem).

He said that Dr Mahathir told Pakistan that requests for membership should be discussed with other members of the two bodies.

On Kashmir, he said that Dr Mahathir lauded the initiative by Pakistan and India to hold talks to resolve the crisis.

Touching on Afghanistan, both leaders expressed the hope that political stability would return there so that development could take place, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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