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Mohamed-Castro

MOHAMED RAHMAT HOLDS TALKS WITH FIDEL CASTRO

By: Azman Hashim

HAVANA, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat held talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro at his office for one and the half hours here today.

Mohamed who is Secretary-General of the ruling Barisan Nasional is on a five-day visit to Cuba at the head of a BN delegation which includes MCA Vice-President Ong Ka Ting, MIC Secretary-General Tan Sri G.Vadivello, Umno Supreme Council member Tan Sri Hussain Ahmad and Gerakan Secretary-General Tan Sri Chan Choon Tak.

Mohamed also conveyed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's invitation to President Castro to visit Malaysia.

Castro had accepted the invitation and would make the visit at an appropriate date, said Mohamed.

Earlier, Mohamad laid a wreath at the Jose Marti Memorial, Cuba's freedom fighter.

At the meeting Robaina said his country welcomed Malaysian investment in the areas of health and education which had not been fully exploited by investors, Zukri said.

Since 1994, Cuba's economy had been undergoing transformation despite the US economic blockade.

In 1994, Cuba's GDP grew at 0.7 per cent and went up to 2.5 per cent in 1995 and 7.8 per cent last year.

The main exports of Cuba, a nation of 12 million people, are sugar, nickel, seafood, citrus fruits and tobacco.

Mohamed and his delegation also called on the Chairman of the Cuban National Assembly Ricardo Alarcon and Minister of Tourism Osmany Cienfuegos. Both are also members of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Last night Mohamed and the BN delegation attended a reception hosted by a central committee member of Cuba's Communist Party Jorje Lezcano. --

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