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New era in bilateral ties seen as Mozambique President begins visit

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Bilateral ties between Malaysia and Mozambique are expected to enter a new era with the four-day state visit by the republic's President Joaquim Alberto Chissano beginning tomorrow.

Mozambique Foreign and Co-operation Ministry's Asia and Oceania Division director Zacarias Kupela said the visit would help both countries learn more about each other and help boost bilateral ties.

He said the visit was also expected to enhance co-operation between public institutions and private sectors of both countries.

Chissano, who is the republic's first President to visit Malaysia, will be accompanied by his wife Marcelina Rafael.

He is leading a 33-member delegation which includes 20 indigenous entrepreneurs.

Chissano will be accorded an official welcoming ceremony at Parliament square on Thursday. He will have an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and hold talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Chissano will also attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit and a luncheon hosted by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia.

Kupela said at the Government to Government level, negotiations on several agreements were being discussed and hoped that the agreements would materialise this year.

For the private sector, he said, his country offered a good climate for foreign investors, adding that Malaysian entrepreneurs should exploit this opportunity.

He said major foreign investors in Mozambique at present were Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, United States, Holland and Italy.

"We would like see Malaysian entrepreneurs participating in our infrastructure projects such as building roads, bridges, and also in the telecommunications sector," he said.

Kupela said he hoped that the private sectors of both countries would be able to work out joint ventures within six months after the visit.

He added both countries were strategically located and could act as a gateway for each other's goods to be distributed in their respective regions.

"Mozambique is bordered by Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe," he said.

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