

07/11/1997

Prince praises Malaysia's peace, economic success

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THE economic success and peace in Malaysia had attracted Prince Albert of Monaco to lead a royal tour to Malaysia before proceeding to other countries in the region.

Prince Albert said his delegation is interested in Malaysia's economic success in industry, tourism, finance and others.

He said Monaco is interested to learn more about Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC). The MSC will be a good guide to Monaco Telecom, which is constructing a telecommunication network connecting Barcelona, Toulouse, Marseille, Monaco and Rome.

Prince Albert said Malaysia's constitutional monarchy has ensured the country's unity, as illustrated by the peace and harmonious relations between its various races.

"With considerable growth in the course of recent years and a gross national product of US\$4,500 (US\$1 = RM3.30) per capita, Malaysia has become one of the countries which count for a great deal in Asia," the visiting prince told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He said Malaysia owes much to the foresight of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, who has been able to give Malaysia the stability necessary to facilitate its exceptional development.

"And for the reasons which I have just given, we have decided to begin our journey this year in your country," he said, adding that he will then visit Brunei, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Prince Albert described his visit as an introductory visit to establish closer relations between Monaco and Malaysia.

Prince Albert also invited Malaysians to invest in Monaco as the country - which is well-known for its casino and tourists attractions - offers an attractive investment and tax package.

He said Monaco welcomes joint-ventures between both countries in any sectors, especially in the non-polluting, high-technology industries.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Prince had lunch with 15 Malaysian top businessmen. Among those who attended the closed-door luncheon include YTL Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Yeoh Tiong Lay, KUB chairman Datuk Hassan Harun, Farlim Group (M) Bhd chairman and Science Advisor to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman.

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