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Trade and investment agreements signed with Macedonia

MACEDONIAN Foreign Minister Dr Blagoj Handziski and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz signing an agreement on promotion and reciprocal protection of investments.

They earlier signed a trade agreement between the two countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov (on Dr Mahathir's right) witnessed the signings. On the right is Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. With the two signings, Malaysia has now signed 57 Investment Guarantee Agreements and 53 Trade Agreements.

Earlier, Dr Gligorov called on Dr Mahathir at his office for bilateral talks. Gligorov, who is leading a 46-member delegation comprising ministers, senior government officials and businessmen, arrived yesterday on a four-day official visit to boost bilateral relations.

Speaking after the meeting, Abdullah said both sides had fruitful discussions on strengthening ties and co-operation in various fields.

He said Malaysia and Macedonia agreed to increase economic interaction and Macedonia welcomed Malaysian investments in the Balkan state's economy.

Later, Abdullah had a 30-minute meeting with his Macedonian counterpart, Dr Blagoj Handziski, and told the Press that Malaysia had suggested an informal workshop of Balkan states on improving race relations in a bid to avoid conflicts.

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