

10 JUL 1998

Sudan-Agreement

AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUDAN AND M'SIA TO BE SEALED THIS MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, July 10 (Bernama) -- Sudan and Malaysia are expected to sign the Bilateral Payment Agreement (BPA) this month to bolster trade, Sudan's Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail said today.

He said officials from the central banks of the two countries were finalising the agreement.

"It (the signing) may take place later today, otherwise within this month it will be completed," he told the Malaysian official media at the end of his five-day visit to Malaysia.

Mustafa said Bank of Sudan Governor Dr Sabir Mohammed El Hassan, who accompanied him, had discussed the matter with Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Ahmad Mohamed Don.

He also assured Malaysian investors that they will not face problems in their business dealings with his countrymen over the sanctions imposed by the United States against Sudan.

"I can assure you that in the next few months, a lot of projects will be put in action and I can see that the future between Sudan and Malaysia is very promising," he said.

During his visit here, Mustafa held discussions with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Liong Liong Sik, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman.

Mustafa said that in the agricultural field, Sudan needed investments in the form of slaughtering house and freezers to cater for meat production as the republic, the largest country in Africa, has about 120 million head of sheep and cattle.

"This is the area where we are going to concentrate in our investment between Malaysia and Sudan," he said.

He said Malaysian investors could also participate in land cultivation in Sudan which has 80 million hectares of fertile land.

Mustafa also praised Malaysian companies in Sudan like Petronas for carrying out their social responsibility such as providing affordable homes and educational facilities for the poor, unlike other foreign companies.

On his trip to Malaysia, he said it was "successful, promising and we should look more to the future."

-- BERNAMA

ES JK