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CHOK TONG ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY WORKING VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong arrived here this morning for a two-day official visit which he hoped would lead to a new base in forging closer cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

Goh and his delegation were received on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein who is minister-in-attendance.

Goh is accompanied by his wife, Foreign Minister S.Jayakumar and senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry.

Soon after his arrival, Goh and Dr Mahathir are scheduled to hold discussions that will focus on the financial and economic situation in the region and efforts to enhance intra-Asean trade.

Bilateral matters are also expected to top the discussion between the two leaders who have already met twice so far this year.

In an interview with the Singapore Sunday Times yesterday, Goh said he was coming to Kuala Lumpur "with a positive outlook" to seek a new base to forge closer cooperation between Singapore and Malaysia.

The Sunday paper quoted Goh as saying he was meeting Dr Mahathir "not to think there are problems to be solved, but how we can work together".

The leaders met in Johor on Jan 20 and again in Singapore on Feb 7 when Dr Mahathir visited several Asean capitals to discuss the financial and economic problems bogging down the region. -- BERNAMA

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