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Mbeki-Mahathir

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY TRADING NEEDS REFORM, SAYS MBEKI

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki today held talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad which among other things touched on the need for reform in the international currency trading.

In the one-and-a-half-hour discussion, the two leaders noted that the reform was necessary as remedies suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to overcome financial crisis particularly in Southeast Asia has failed to produce the desired result.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Ministry's Under-Secretary for West Asia, Africa and Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Datuk Deva Mohd Ridzam Abdullah said Dr Mahathir also updated Mbeki on Malaysia's economic situation and the measures taken to overcome economic problems.

Mbeki, who arrived yesterday for a week-long working visit, is making his first visit as South African Deputy President and as the President of the African National Congress (ANC).

The visit is at the invitation of Dr Mahathir.

Today's discussion, a follow-up to an earlier discussion when Dr Mahathir visited South Africa in July, was also attended by Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

Deva said both leaders also exchanged views on situation in Southern Africa especially on development in Congo, Nigeria and Angola.

Mbeki is scheduled to have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar tomorrow before leaving for Pulau Pangkor for a retreat.

On Monday he will address the Third Malaysian-South African Business Forum at a hotel here.

The Deputy President will also attend the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games XVI.

-- BERNAMA

AFY ABG