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Malaysia-Uganda

KL AND KAMPALA AGREE TO INCREASE TRADE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Uganda today signed two agreements aimed at expanding trade and bilateral cooperation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni witnessed the signing of the agreements after leading their respective delegations to bilateral talks at the Prime Minister's Department here.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and the Ugandan Minister of State for Planning and Economic Development Sam Kutesa signed the agreement on trade.

The other agreement on economic, scientific and cultural cooperation was signed by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the Ugandan First Deputy Prime Minister cum Foreign Minister Eriya Kategaya.

Museveni arrived here yesterday for a four-day state visit.

At a press conference after the talks, Abdullah said Malaysia and Uganda have agreed to expand bilateral trade which totalled RM17.5 million as of last year.

Malaysia's exports to Uganda last year, totalling RM14 million, comprised mainly telecommunications and recording equipment, textiles, furniture, shoes and printed materials.

Abdullah said Museveni proposed that Malaysia consider investing in Uganda's manufacturing as well as cocoa, tea and coffee plantation sectors, among others.

The Ugandan president, he said, also looked forward to having Malaysia investment in the country's booming hotel and travel industry especially following last month's visit by United States president Bill Clinton.

"The prime minister gave the undertaking to assign a minister as well as a Malaysian trade and investment mission to explore investment and trade opportunities in Uganda," said Abdullah.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir expressed Malaysia's keenness in investing in telecommunications and power generation.

"But at the same time the prime minister said given the current economic problems, the capacity of the Malaysian businessmen and investors may be a little limited," said Abdullah.

Uganda also sought Malaysia's cooperation in human resource development.

Kuala Lumpur expressed willingness to hold courses on privatisation and help set up free trade zones and industrial parks should Uganda require them.

Abdullah said Uganda agreed to support Malaysia's nomination to a non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the 1999/2000 term.

-- BERNAMA

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