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Mahathir-Departure

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR HOME AFTER A SHORT TRIP TO BRUNEI

By: E.Sivabalan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for home today after paving the way for more Brunei investment in Malaysia during his two-day working visit here.

Among those present at the Bandar Seri Begawan International Airport to send off Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, were Brunei Minister of Industry and Primary Resources Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman Mohamed Taib, who is also minister-in-attendance and Malaysia's High Commissioner to Brunei Wan Yusof Embong.

Dr Mahathir told a news conference here yesterday, shortly after holding talks with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah at Istana Nurul Iman that Brunei was interested to invest more in Malaysia and there was a possibility that the oil-rich Sultanate would invest in Malaysian companies involved in property and hotels, among others.

He said despite the regional financial and economic crisis, Malaysia might see a positive development in more Brunei investment.

The trip also saw the Prime Minister and Sultan Hassanal ironing out several outstanding bilateral matters such as the immigration problems faced by the people of both countries travelling along the Brunei-Miri stretch.

In the spirit of Asean and good neighbourliness, Dr Mahathir and Sultan Hassanal have agreed to follow-up on the request by each other's country.

As to the present status of bilateral ties, both leaders have expressed satisfaction.

During their discussions termed as a "four-eyed meeting", Dr Mahathir and Sultan Hassanal also discussed regional matters including the admission of Phnom Penh into Asean as soon as the Cambodian government was formed.

Dr Mahathir had said that he also informed Sultan Hassanal who is Brunei Prime Minister that Malaysia welcomed more Brunei students to pursue their education in Malaysia.

The prime minister's trip to Brunei also marks the inaugural Malaysia-Brunei consultation arrangement between Dr Mahathir and Sultan Hassanal.

The two leaders had agreed in Kuala Lumpur last year to meet annually to exchange ideas and discuss regional and international matters of mutual concern.

During his two-day stay here, Dr Mahathir met the Malaysian community at the Rumah Malaysia where he also received contributions of some RM50,000 from them for the National Special Fund.

Prior to his departure home today, Dr Mahathir joined Sultan Hassanal for breakfast.

-- BERNAMA

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