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MAHATHIR CONGRATULATES NEW CHINESE PREMIER

KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has sent a congratulatory message to Zhu Rongji on his appointment as China's new prime minister.

In his message, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia and China had enjoyed close and cordial relations and hoped that the warm ties and excellent cooperation between the two governments would continue to progress under Zhu's leadership.

"I am confident that working together, our two countries can contribute towards greater economic prosperity as well as peace and stability in the region," he said. -- BERNAMA

ZAB RM