

26/05/1998

Malaysia ready to share experience with Surinam

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MALAYSIA is willing to share its success experience with Surinam as well as offer technical assistance to facilitate Surinam's development process.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad informed Surinam President Jules Wijdenbosch at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday that Surinam could learn a lot from Malaysia as both countries have a multi-racial background.

The Prime Minister also said that Surinam could learn from Malaysia's growth experience when it is able to increase its per capita income from a mere US\$300 (US\$1 = RM3.81) to US\$5,000.

Acting Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, briefing reporters after the meeting between Dr Mahathir and Wijdenbosch, said Malaysia also offered to train people from Surinam in various areas including the agriculture and aquaculture sectors.

Surinam has a lot of development potential; even though the country has a small population, it has vast tracts of land.

Surinam also invited Malaysians to invest in the country as it has an abundance of minerals and gold.

Earlier, officials from both countries signed a trade agreement to lay the groundwork for further cooperation. Syed Hamid signed on behalf of Malaysia while Surinam was represented by its Foreign Minister Eroll G. Snijders.

Syed Hamid said trade between both countries currently stands at RM2 million with Malaysian exports to Surinam amounting to RM1.7 million and imports valued at RM300,000.

Bernama reports: Surinam President Jules Wijdenbosch was yesterday accorded an official welcoming ceremony at Parliament Square in Kuala Lumpur. He was received by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar.

Wijdenbosch inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 107 officers and men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment commanded by Major Abdul Basit Abdul Rahman.

The president and his wife Patricia d'Leon were later introduced to members of the Cabinet, deputy ministers and heads of foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur.

Wijdenbosch and his delegation, which includes several ministers, arrived on Sunday night. The two-day visit is at the invitation of the King.

Wijdenbosch will attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department and visit the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (Porim) in Bangi today.

Surinam, whose capital is Paramaribo, is located in northern South America bordering Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana and the North Atlantic Ocean.

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