

25 MAY 1998

Suriname - Trade

M'SIA, SURINAME SIGN TRADE PACT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Suriname today indicated their willingness to expand trade ties with the signing of a trade agreement in conjunction with the visit by Suriname President Jules Wijdenbosch.

The pact was signed prior to a meeting between the delegations of both countries headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Wijdenbosch respectively.

Acting Foreign Minister and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar signed for Malaysia and Suriname, by the Foreign Minister Eroll G. Snijders.

Briefing reporters on the outcome of the talks, Syed Hamid said Malaysia was willing to share its experience in helping to develop the Suriname economy.

"Among the areas that could be looked at for cooperation are agriculture especially oil palm plantation and aquaculture," said Syed Hamid, standing in for Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, who is abroad on official duty.

Syed Hamid said the South American country was keen in attracting Malaysian investors to its shores.

According to him, Suriname was also endowed with rich forest and mineral resources like bauxite and gold.

Last year, Malaysia exported RM1.7 million worth of products to Suriname and imported goods valued at RM300,000 from there.

Syed Hamid added that Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could be used as an example of how development could take place in a multiracial set-up.

Wijdenbosch began a two-day state visit to Malaysia today.

-- BERNAMA

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