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Hamid-Sudan

SUDAN THANKFUL TO MALAYSIA FOR HELP

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- The Sudanese government has expressed thanks to Malaysia for being the driving force behind Sudan's opening up to the outside world.

Its Foreign Minister, Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail conveyed this today to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman when he called on the latter at his office today.

Sudan is also thankful to Malaysia for the help in the country's development especially the cooperation extended by Petronas in the field of oil production.

"Sudan's oil production next year will make it a richest country...", Abdul Hamid told reporters said after the meeting.

He said Mustafa had conveyed his government's thanks to the Malaysia especially Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his visit to Sudan last May.

He said the pipe-laying project covering 1,500km through the desert to Port Sudan would help to spur growth in settlement areas along the route.

Sudan had also agreed to provide suitable land to PadiBeras Nasional Sdn Bhd (Bernas) for padi cultivation and Tabung Haji for oil palm plantation, he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Mustafa's visit was to continue discussions with parties in Malaysia as a follow-up to Dr Mahathir's visit.

The matters to be discussed would include two-way trade payment and air cooperation between Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and Sudan's national carrier.

Malaysia, he said was contemplating to buy at reasonable prices cooking oil, beef and mutton from Sudan which is a supplier of meat to the Gulf states, said Abdullah after receiving Mustafa at his office.

Sudan in return had expressed interest in buying on credit palm oil from Malaysia, he said.

Later, Mustafa called on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Prime Minister's Department.

Speaking to reporters after the hour-long meeting, he said they discussed ways to implement agreements and memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries during Dr Mahathir's visit, aimed at boosting trade and investments.

"The relationship between Sudan and Malaysia in the future will develop in many aspects especially in the economic area," he said.

The talks also touched on how to further strengthen economic and political cooperation, with both being members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mustafa also said he discussed the possible date and venue for a joint ministerial meeting with Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

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