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Yemen-Visit  
YEMENI PRESIDENT WRAPS UP VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said today he is confident that trade relations between Malaysia and his country will be further enhanced after his four-day official visit here.

Speaking to reporters before his departure, he said: "I brought along senior officials and a big number of businessmen who had held excellent talks with their Malaysian counterparts."

He said a number of agreements were also signed between the two countries to further strengthen existing trade relations particularly in the fields of oil, gas and petroleum besides increasing external trade exchanges between the two countries.

Ali said he had fruitful talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, on various international and regional issues and he was happy to note that both sides have an identical stand and policy particularly on developments in West Asia.

Malaysia and Yemen have, to date, signed a total 52 trade agreements and 59 investment guarantee agreements aimed at expanding trade, economic and industrial cooperation on a long-term basis between the two countries.

During Ali's visit, officials of the two countries signed an economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation agreement; a trade agreement and an investment guarantee agreement.

The Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) and the General Investment Authority of Yemen also sealed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Ali earlier had a farewell audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negara.

Dr Mahathir made a farewell call on him before he left for the palace.

Ali and his 69-member delegation proceeded to Beijing to continue their Asian tour.

Ali was seen off at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman who was the minister-in-attendance. -- BERNAMA

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