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Zhu-Malaysia

M'SIA WILL CONTINUE TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES, SAYS ZHU

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji said Malaysia's success in overcoming its economic crisis has shown that a nation should persist in taking the road to development which best suits its own condition.

"We are confident that the Malaysian people will be able to continue to overcome the difficulties on their road to advancement and create still more splendour in the next century," he said in his speech at a welcoming dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight.

This is the first official function to be held at Sri Perdana, the new official residence of the Prime Minister here.

Zhu arrived here today for a five-day official visit, heading a 107-member delegation comprising Foreign Minister Pang Jia Xuan, Agriculture Minister Chen Yao Bang, Minister of Special Assistance Lin Hua Qiu and Vice-Governor of the People's Bank of China Yan Hai Wang.

Zhu said China's reforms and its opening up in the last two decades had also proven that "building socialism with Chinese characteristics" was the correct path for the country's development.

The republic views the return of Macao to China on Dec 20 as another important step forward for the Chinese people in their pursuit of national unification following Hong Kong's successful return two years ago, he said.

"One country, two systems is the set basic policy for the realisation of China's reunification. The ultimate reunion between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits represents the general trend of the times and commands the will of the ppeople," he said.

Zhu said a unified, stable and prosperous China would not only serve the fundamentele interest of the entire Chinese, but contribute significantly to peace, stability and development in the region and the world at large.

The Chinese premier also expressed confidence that China and Malaysia would build even a broader and closer friendly relations and cooperation through enhanced bilateral efforts.

China and Malaysia established diplomatic ties 25 years ago and since then bilateral relations and cooperation had made all-round progress under the guidance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, he said.

The two agreements on the framework for the future bilateral cooperation signed by China and Malaysia early this year charted the course for the establishment of an all-round relationship of good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation between the two countries, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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