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Agong-Guinea

CONTINUE TO INVEST IN GUINEA, SAYS AGONG

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah tonight urged Malaysian companies to continue to invest in Guinea because their investments can help raise the standard of living of the Guineans.

He said Malaysia would continue to work with Guinea to formulate a long-term strategy for the comprehensive development of the republic.

"I am happy with Malaysia's involvement in economic development projects in the Republic of Guinea, especially in telecommunication development, agriculture, trade and banking.

"The investments of Malaysian companies in these sectors have reached over US\$87 million," he said at a state banquet in conjunction with the official visit of President Lansana Conte of Guinea at Istana Negara, here.

Present were the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several Cabinet ministers.

Sultan Salahuddin said he was impressed with Conte's efforts to develop the republic's economy.

"I support these noble efforts and pray that all of Guinea's development efforts will be successful.

"This positive development of the Republic of Guinea should serve as an example for countries in Africa," he said.

His Majesty said he also had the same aspirations to bring more changes and development to the people of Malaysia.

He said that in this era of globalisation, developing countries like Malaysia and Guinea should further strengthen cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, to ensure that this globalisation would not threaten and oppress the developing nations.

Sultan Salahuddin also hoped that the west African region would continue to be peaceful for the sake of economic development and the well-being of their peoples.

He was confident that both countries would continue to foster relations and bilateral cooperation in the economic and technical fields.

Conte, who is on a five-day visit here, his second after September 1995, was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square this morning and later called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya.

-- BERNAMA

APG JK