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Dr M assures Cambodia of continued assistance

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysia recognises the challenges faced by the Cambodian Government in its efforts to promote national reconciliation while rehabilitating and reconstructing its country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in declaring this recognition tonight, commended Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen for his role and commitment to work out an agreement for a peaceful and prosperous Cambodia.

He reiterated that Malaysia was happy to continue sharing experiences and expertise to help Cambodia realise the full potential of its human resources for its socio-economic development.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at an official dinner he hosted for Hun Sen at Seri Perdana. Hun Sen is here on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir also welcomed Cambodia's impending entry as the 10th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In expressing confidence that Cambodia would contribute and play a significant role in enhancing and developing Asean, Dr Mahathir said the private sectors of both countries have a vital role to play in promoting mutual growth and development.

"Both countries have much to gain," he said, "in forging co-operation for mutual benefit."

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian companies' participation in reconstructing and developing Cambodia would be encouraged.

Malaysia now has 70 companies investing in Cambodia, 30 in joint-venture projects with Cambodian counterparts, he said.

Dr Mahathir recalled fond memories of his first trip to Cambodia five years ago which not only laid the foundation for better relations but gave him a better understanding of the country's needs.

Hun Sen, thanked the Malaysian Government and people for their assistance, which helped the Cambodian Government to achieve its goals.

Hun Sen also hoped that the visit would be fruitful in strengthening ties between both countries.

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