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Hun Sen

HUN SEN COMING FOR THREE-DAY VISIT FROM THURSDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is scheduled to make a three-day official visit here from Thursday to enhance bilateral ties with Malaysia at the invitation of his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This will be Hun Sen's first official visit to Malaysia since the July 1998 Cambodian general election and he will be accompanied by several cabinet ministers and senior government officials, the Foreign Ministry said today.

The visit would also give the two leaders the opportunity to discuss various bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern, it said in a statement.

"The visit is also to express Cambodia's appreciation for Malaysia's support on the issue of Cambodia's membership into Asean," it said.

The last Asean summit in Hanoi last December agreed to admit Cambodia as the regional grouping's 10th member after Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The meeting had directed the Asean foreign ministers to arrange for a date, which has yet to be fixed, for an admission ceremony to be held also in the Vietnamese capital.

Hun Sen will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square here immediately upon arrival and have an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar at Istana Negara.

He will then call on Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office to jointly witness the signing of a Malaysia-Cambodia Trade Agreement.

Dr Mahathir will later host a dinner for Hun Sen at Sri Perdana.

Hun Sen's itinerary here includes visiting the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), the Selangor State Development Corporation and the Petronas Twin Towers.

He is also scheduled to give a talk on "Cambodia Towards a New Future", organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

He leaves for Phnom Penh on Saturday.

-- BERNAMA

APG AHH RN