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Abdullah-Kyrgyz

KYRGYZ ECONOMIC REFORMS BASED ON M'SIAN REPORT

PUTRAJAYA, July 5 (Bernama) -- Kyrgyzstan is carrying out economic reforms in phases based on Malaysia's recommendations in a report submitted two years ago, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"The report meets the requirements of the various economic sectors there. The pace of implementing the recommendations is up to their discretion.

"Moreover, like us they are also facing economic problems," he said.

Abdullah told reporters this after receiving his Kyrgyz counterpart Esengul Omuraliev at his office here today.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad handed over the report to President Askar Akayev during Dr Mahathir's visit to the republic.

An Economic Planning Unit team prepared the report after studying the republic's development potentials.

Abdullah said Omuraliev's six-day visit here is in his capacity as Foreign Trade and Industry Minister.

He had also called on his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Kyrgyzstan gained independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Abdullah said Omuraliev also sought Malaysia's economic assistance and looked forward to attracting larger Malaysian investment in the central Asian republic.

"He is also pleased that his country and Malaysia already have a double-taxation avoidance agreement," Abdullah said.

During their talks Omuraliev also proposed that Malaysia Airlines (MAS) establish direct flights to the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek.

"The Kyrgyz government has decided to make Bishkek a transit point for flights from Europe to East Asia. They reckon this is a good opportunity for MAS...MAS passengers can make a stop-over there or fly direct to Europe," Abdullah added.

-- BERNAMA

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