

19 OCT 1999

Malaysia-Venezuela

MALAYSIA-VENEZUELA REVIVE JOINT COMMISSION

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Venezuela have agreed to revive their joint commission, dormant since 1990, to further strengthen bilateral links and cooperation, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

This was decided at the meeting of the Malaysia and Venezuela delegations jointly chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Venezuela President Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias, he said.

"They agreed that relations must be on a more pragmatic footing so that all programmes can be implemented effectively," he said when briefing the press on the meeting at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Syed Hamid said the commission had previously met only once in 1990 at which both countries signed several agreements including one on trade.

He said Dr Mahathir's views at the meeting focused mostly on the need to strengthen links among the nations of the South so that their voice would be heard by the international community.

President Chavez Frias was visiting Malaysia to enhance bilateral relations in all fields and also to strengthen south-south ties.

Earlier the Prime Minister met privately with the President who arrived here last night for a three-day state visit.

This is his first visit to Southeast Asia since becoming President of Venezuela in February this year.

-- BERNAMA

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