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Tunisia-Malaysia

MALAYSIA TO BE ROLE MODEL FOR TUNISIA

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28 (Bernama) -- Taking Malaysia as its role model, Tunisia, a country lying at the meeting point of the eastern and western Mediterranean, is inviting Malaysian companies to invest in its booming tourism and electronics industries.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Said Ben Mustapha said Malaysian companies could also grab the vast opportunities in his country's agro-business and infrastructure sectors.

Speaking to reporters after calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today, Mustapha said there were also ample opportunities for Tunisian firms in Malaysia, especially in the field of agriculture.

"Both countries have many potentials for investors," he said.

Mustapha arrived on Wednesday for a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He is accompanied by an eight-member delegation comprising officials from the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, Trade and International Cooperation Ministry and Foreign Investment Ministry.

Trade between Tunisia and Malaysia totalled RM110 million and it was in Tunisia's favour last year.

Tunisia's foreign trade in 1998 saw its exports of electrical and mechanical products increase by 25.7 per cent while exports of textile inched up by 10 per cent.

The country's exports advanced by 6.2 per cent last year.

Inflation, meanwhile, was at 3.1 per cent in 1998, the lowest rate registered since 1972.

"I admire Malaysia's remarkable performance and Tunisia hopes to emulate Malaysia's success in development."

He said there was a need to strengthen bilateral ties and economic cooperation.

"The present economic cooperation is below the actual potential level," he said.

Mustapha said the Tunisia-Malaysia Joint Commission would meet soon to realise the potentials of the two countries.

--BERNAMA

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