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Ramos-Talks

RAMOS AND DR M DISCUSS ABOUT ASEAN AND TIMOR

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Former Phillipine president Fidel Ramos met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today discussed various issues including Asean's role with regard to developments in East Timor.

Ramos said they agreed on the need for Asean countries to cooperate closely to be of maximum help to Indonesia and "prevent the outflow effects of political instability in Indonesia".

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the former president said he congratulated Dr Mahathir for his success in reviving Malaysia's economy.

"While he (Dr Mahathir) was heavily criticised during the past year for his unconventional measures, now even the IMF is applauding the effectiveness of his policies," said Ramos.

The two leaders also discussed about the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) which was initiated by the Philippines in 1993.

Ramos said the sub-region, vibrant for commerce and other forms of economic cooperation until the economic turmoil set in July 1997, must be revived.

the former president currently chairs the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation, set up to provide a support mechanism for the Philippine government and people in four areas -- economic diplomacy, sustainable development, democratic governance and Asia Pacific stability and security.

The foundation is made up of several former cabinet members of Ramos's administration, retired parliamentarians, bankers and diplomats.

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