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TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER ARRIVES TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi will arrive here tomorrow for a three-day visit to invite Malaysian participation in the development of roads and highways in the South Indian state.

Tamil Nadu also hoped to learn from Malaysia's experience in the privatisation of infrastructure projects, Indian High Commission officials said.

Karunanidhi will call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and also hold talks with Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and attend a dinner hosted by the Associated Indian Chamber of Commerce here.

This is the second visit to Malaysia for the 76-year-old politician who is serving a fourth time as Chief Minister of the largely Tamil speaking state.

His talks with the Works Minister and the private sector were expected to focus on the possibility of Malaysian companies taking part in Tamil Nadu's highway and road construction projects.

Among others, the Tamil Nadu government is planning to build an elevated expressway linking the Chennai Port and Tambaram, one of its suburbs. Currently, Malaysia's IGM Corporation Berhad is involved in the construction of the Chennai Expressway costing RM60 million.

Several Malaysian Independent Power Producers (IPP) have bid and won power projects in Tamil Nadu, including a 1000 megawatt project in Cuddalore and a 600 megawatt project in North Chennai.

Tamil Nadu with some 55 million people is the fifth largest state economy in India.

--BERNAMA

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