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VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- President of the Republic of Venezuela Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias will be making a three-day state visit to Malaysia beginning Monday.

A Wisma Putra statement today said President Chavez will be accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Commerce and Production, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Science and Technology.

The statement said the main purpose of his visit was to strengthen relations between the two countries and to exchange views with Malaysian leaders on their respective economic development experience and also regional and international issues of mutual interest.

During the visit, the Venezuelan President will call on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The visit is part of his tour to East and Southeast Asia and also his first visit to Asia since assuming the office of the President in February this year, the statement said.

-- BERNAMA

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