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Mahathir-Indonesia

DR M'S VISIT TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's two-day visit to Indonesia from Thursday seeks to reinforce bilateral ties through collaboration in expediting economic recovery.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said a high-powered 150-member delegation comprising ministers, Members of Parliament, entrepreneurs and youth leaders will accompany the prime minister.

The Cabinet members in the entourage are Syed Hamid himself, Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

Speaking to reporters at Parliament House lobby here today, Syed Hamid the visit would enable Malaysia determine the assistance it could extend in bringing about economic recovery to Indonesia through participation of the Malaysian private sector.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to witness the signing of three memoranda of understanding between Malaysian and Indonesian companies involving;

- \* Three Intity Sdn Bhd and PT Astra Graphia to develop an electronic procurement (e-procurement) system in Indonesia;

- \* the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) and Komisariss Indosat to develop a multimedia corporation for Indonesia; and

- \* First Perpec Prime and a four-party Indonesian consortium of Citra Bakti Marga Terma Persoda, Citra Matram Siatria Marga Persoda, Jakarta Lingkar Barat and Marga Nuriando Bhakti to build city traffic dispersal road networks for Jakarta.

An MoU for a US\$200-million oil and gas downstream joint-venture project in north Java and Jambi would also be signed between a Malaysian entity and its Indonesian partner.

Syed Hamid described Dr Mahathir's upcoming visit an extension of the consultation process between the leaders of both countries and in reciprocal to that by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid to Malaysia last November.

"We come to display the closeness between us... we want to be friends in good and bad times. We look forward to discussing bilateral, regional and international issue of mutual concern," Syed Hamid said.

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to deliver a key-note address at a seminar on "Rebuilding Business Opportunity in Indonesia" jointly organised by the Asian Strategy Leadership Institute (ASLI) of Malaysia and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

-- BERNAMA

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