

Malaysian businessmen invited to invest in Cuban tourism sector

By **Ferida Abdul Kudhus**

ferida@thesundaily.com

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PUTRAJAYA, Fri: Cuba is inviting Malaysians to venture into its tourism sector.

Cuban President Fidel Castro made the offer during bilateral talks here today. The Malaysian side was headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The Malaysian government also

encourages Malaysians to visit Cuba and see what are the areas they can participate in," Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told a press conference after the meeting.

Describing the meeting as very successful, Syed Hamid said it will contribute positively towards enhancing bilateral relations and co-operation among the G77 countries.

"The two leaders get along very well. They shared a lot of views in common on globalisation, a great

deal on creating a more just world order. I think both are fairly outspoken," he said.

"He (Castro) is very impressed with Putrajaya and the ability of Malaysians to carry out the project. Some would speak negatively about such projects as Putrajaya, but he said it is the correct project.

"He wants to look at Malaysia from the time of independence. He looks at us (Malaysia) as being a fairly developed country and not just a developing country."

Syed Hamid said Mahathir also explained to the Cuban delegation Vision 2020, the Third Outline Perspective Plan, the Eighth Malaysia Plan, and how Malaysia structured its development plan.

Both countries signed an economic, technical and scientific agreement today.

Syed Hamid said cooperation in the scientific field focuses on the exchange of experience, research and exchange of scientists or research facilities between two count-

ries. In the technical field, Malaysia will provide training for Cubans under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

Malaysia has also been exporting palm oil to Cuba under the Palm Oil Credit Scheme.

"We have granted an additional amount of US\$15 million (RM57 million) and we hope that, subject to all the necessary conditions being fulfilled, this tranche can be utilised."