

# Croatian Foreign Minister here for three-day visit to strengthen ties

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. -- Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula arrived here today for a three-day visit to Malaysia in an effort to strengthen bilateral ties between both countries.

He is accompanied by Finance Minister Mate Crkvenac.

Picula is scheduled to make a courtesy call tomorrow on Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to discuss various issues.

He is expected to give a talk at the Nikko Hotel organised by Diplomatic and External Relations Institute.

He will also visit the Multimedia Development Corporation in Putrajaya and the Petronas Twin Tower.

Malaysia set up its embassy in Croatia in July 1994, while Croatia opened its embassy here in November 1995.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited Croatia in December 1994 and again in April 1996.

His counterpart Zlatko Matesa visited Malaysia in March 1997.

Several agreements had been signed by both countries to forge strong economic and bilateral ties including the 1994 Trade Agreement and the 1996 Partial Visa Abolishment Agreement.

Last year's trade between Malaysia and Croatia amounted to RM30.6 million.

Malaysia's main export to Croatia were automatic data processors, electrical, electronic and telecommunication appliances and furniture, while its imports from Croatia included electrical machines, paper based products, construction materials and measuring equipment