

16 NOV 2001

DR MAHATHIR BIDS FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad bid farewell to President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea who ended his two-day official visit to Malaysia today.

President Mbasogo is scheduled to leave tonight for Sibu, the third largest town in Sarawak, for a two-day private visit.

His visit to Malaysia, the first by an Equatorial Guinean leader, was highlighted by the signing of a bilateral agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

The former Spanish colony sought Malaysia's technical expertise to develop its agriculture and primary industries while Malaysia pledged to share its experience in poverty-eradication, among other things.

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and Equatorial Guinea, which stood at RM2.23 million last year, was currently in Malaysia's favour.

Currently, Malaysian companies are engaged in oil and gas exploration, timber and road construction in Equatorial Guinea which is 28,000 sq km in size and has a population about 400,000.

-- BERNAMA

AT HS RYN