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Myanmar-Agreement

MALAYSIA AND MYANMAR SIGN AGREEMENTS ON TOURISM AND INFORMATION

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Myanmar today signed two agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in tourism and information exchange between both countries.

The signing of the agreement on cooperation in information and memorandum of understanding on cooperation in tourism was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the visiting Myanmar leader, State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior Gen Than Shwe.

Malaysia was represented by Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob while the Minister Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Brig Gen Abel signed on behalf of Myanmar for both agreements.

Earlier, Than Shwe was met on arrival at the Prime Minister's Department here by Dr Mahathir and he was shown the aerial view of Putrajaya from the top of the Prime Minister's Department building.

Later, both Prime Ministers had a private discussion at Dr Mahathir's office for about an hour before attending a delegation meeting.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told reporters after the meeting that both governments had discussed various matters concerning ways to improve bilateral relations and trade.

He said Myanmar had expressed its hope that more Malaysian companies would invest in the country especially in oil, gas, paper and pulp.

"We also discussed global current issues especially on the effect of the United States economic slowdown and the need for Asean countries to work closely with each other and not to depend on one market," he said.

On the political aspect, Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir had indicated his happiness that the military government of Myanmar had made various progress towards the restoration of democracy in the country.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia had always stressed that the restoration of democracy in Myanmar should be done in phases that suit the political development in the country.

"As a member of Asean, we'd like to see Myanmar moving to the mainstream and not subject to problems pertaining to questions regarding the scenario in the country," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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