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Syed Hamid-Diplomatic

M'SIA AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA ESTABLISH TIES

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia signed an economic, scientific, technical and cultural agreement with Equatorial Guinea today that will establish diplomatic and bilateral relations in various fields.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the agreement was reached at a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea at the Prime Minister's office here.

"We don't have relations with it now because its ambassador in Beijing has just been accredited to Malaysia and we have just set up our high commission in Nigeria to cover that country," he told reporters after signing the agreement with his counterpart, Santiago Nsobega Efuman Nchama, witnessed by the two heads of state.

He said that at the meeting, President Mbasogo expressed his intention to make Malaysia a model in the distribution of wealth and rural development in Equatorial Guinea.

"He said he was very impressed with Malaysia's development and wanted to make it a model in the development of Equatorial Guinea," Syed Hamid said.

He said President Mbasogo asked for Malaysia's expertise in livestock breeding, education, public health, petroleum and palm oil and Malaysia agreed to share its experience and help the African country.

He said President Mbasogo also expressed interest to learn from Malaysia to set up a town like Putrajaya in the republic and Dr Mahathir invited him to send his officers here for a short course.

-- BERNAMA
NM ER NZ JK