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Russia-Malaysia

PUTIN-MAHATHIR MEETING TO ENHANCE BILATERAL TIES, SAYS RUSSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- This week's meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Moscow is set to be a great event in Malaysia-Russia bilateral ties, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The Putin-Mahathir meeting will "render new qualities to these relations in many spheres," the ministry said in a statement distributed by the Russian embassy here today, ahead of Dr Mahathir's four-day visit to Russia beginning Wednesday at the invitation of Putin.

Putin and Dr Mahathir last met at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Forum in Brunei last year.

The statement said besides giving priority to political interaction, talks between the two leaders will highlight diversification of trade and economic bonds.

"There are big reserves for mutually beneficial partnership in science, high technologies, industrial cooperation, in particular in the aviation and space, biotechnology, membrane technology.

"Let's not forget the ICT sphere i.e. in the framework of the Russia's linking up to the implementation of the famous Malaysian Multimedia Super Corridor project," the statement said.

With both sides having impressive prospects in the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources and in transportation field, the possibilities of further Malaysian investments into the Russian economy would be worth looking forward to, the statement said.

It said vast prospects characterised the cooperation between Russia's regions and the states of Malaysia, especially in realising economic development programmes of Siberia and the Russian Far East.

"One cannot ignore favourable opportunities for widening cooperation in military techniques and technologies and stirring up inter-military contacts," the statement said.

It said Russia and Malaysia pay serious attention to systematic amelioration and modernization of the legal base for bilateral relationship.

"They are finalising preparatory work to sign a number of intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements and MoUs, including those on promotion and mutual protections of investments, on science and technology cooperation, etc," it said.

Diversified cooperation with Malaysia was an important integral part of Russia's policy in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region in general, the statement said.

"Moscow values the present high level of political contacts between our countries because these contacts contribute a lot to the continuous pace of the all-round development of the Malaysian-Russian relationship," it said.

Malaysian and Russian close or concurrent views on global and regional issues laid the ground for further tight interaction between the two countries on the international fora, it said.

The two nations are emphasizing the need for preserving and increasing the central role of the United Nations in international affairs and both support the creation of a multipolar world order that will exclude any unilateral dictate and secure equal and mutually profitable character of inter-state relationship, the statement said.

Moscow and Kuala Lumpur attached special meaning to strengthening

stability on global and regional levels, preserving the existing system of international disarmament and arms control treaties and securing the process of non-proliferation of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons, it said.

"There is an understanding that international terrorism, separatism and confessional extremism pose a serious threat to security," it said.

Moscow said it was also willing to strengthen its interaction with Malaysia in the Asean Post Ministerial Meetings and Asean Regional Forum (ARF) format.

"As an ARF member, Russia is going to facilitate further increase of the role of this forum because Moscow considers it to be a key mechanism for multilateral dialogue on security and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

"The further consolidation of stability in the region where conflict potentials still exist will be for sure an important direction of the Malaysian-Russian political cooperation," it said.

Russia said it will also strengthen its cooperation with Malaysia within APEC as both sides believed that APEC activities should be based on taking into account interests and possibilities of all its members.

The two countries agreed that globalisation should not serve only in the interests of a small group of nations.

"The task is to facilitate sustainable development of all the countries," the statement added.

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