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Syed Hamid-St Lucia

ST LUCIA KEEN ON TOURISM AND TELECOM COOPERATION WITH M'SIA

PUTRAJAYA, May 10 (Bernama) -- St Lucia, the independent island state in the Caribbean with a population of about 150,000, is keen in collaborating with Malaysia in tourism and telecommunications, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said.

Visiting St Lucia Prime Minister Dr Kenny David Anthony conveyed this to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when calling on his Malaysian counterpart at the Prime Minister's Department here today, said Syed Hamid.

"We shall scout around for Malaysian investors interested in going to St Lucia to establish cooperation in the two fields," Syed Hamid said when briefing reporters on the outcome of the hour-long talks between Dr Mahathir and Dr Anthony.

According to Syed Hamid, Dr Anthony also expressed desire to share Malaysia's experience in diversification of economic resources.

Dr Anthony, who is accompanied by wife Rose Marie, is leading a seven-member delegation, including Planning, Development, Environment and Housing Minister Dr Walter Francois.

They arrived yesterday for a five-day visit.

While St Lucia, which is 614 sq km in area, mainly produces and processes spices, citrus fruits, bananas, cocoa and coconuts, tourism is also a significant sector of its economy.

This is Dr Anthony's first trip to Malaysia at the invitation of Dr Mahathir who visited St Lucia last year.

"Dr Mahathir impressed upon him that by diversifying its products St Lucia would not be vulnerable to the adverse economic effects of solely relying on a single commodity," Syed Hamid said.

To mark Dr Anthony's visit here St Lucia and Malaysia signed a memorandum on economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Presently Malaysia does not have a diplomatic mission in St Lucia and bilateral matters are being handled by the nearest Malaysian embassy in Venezuela.

"We are looking forward to extending whatever technical support and assistance in whatever field to St Lucia," said Syed Hamid stressing the significance of the memorandum.

Dr Anthony and his delegation also visited the Economic Planning Unit today and are scheduled to visit Langkawi tomorrow for a first hand look at efforts to make the island a key international tourist destination.

-- BERNAMA  
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