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Mahathir-Koreas

TIME NORTH KOREAN LEADER MAKES RETURN VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA, SAYS PM

By: R.Ravichandran

PYONGYANG, June 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia feels it is timely for North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il to make a return visit to South Korea to continue the dialogue process between the two Koreas.

This was contained in a goodwill message from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the North Korean leader.

The message was conveyed by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to the President, Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Yong Nam during his courtesy call at the Mansudae Assembly Hall here.

Syed Hamid, who arrived here on Monday, is on an official visit to North Korea, his first to this socialist country of some 22 million people.

In the message, Dr Mahathir also said that Malaysia is fully supportive of the inter-Korean Summit between Jong-Il and South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, held here last June.

While expressing his satisfaction over the current bilateral relations between Kuala Lumpur and Pyongyang, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia is keen to expand the relationship.

Malaysia and North Korea established diplomatic ties in 1973.

In the message, the Prime Minister also invited Kim Jong-Il to make an official visit to Malaysia at a convenient time.

-- BERNAMA

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