

24 MAY 2001

Venezuela-Visit

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT VISITING MALAYSIA MONDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 24 (Bernama) -- The President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez will be making a two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Monday to enhance bilateral ties in trade, tourism and petrochemical industry, among other areas of cooperation.

The Venezuelan ambassador here Noel Ochoa told reporters today this will be Chavez's second visit to the country. He first visited Malaysia in October 1999.

"We are also interested to cooperate with Malaysia in rubber and palm oil industry," the ambassador said.

This time around Chavez will be accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Col Luis Alfonso Davila, Science and Technology Minister Dr Carlos Genatios and Planning and Development Minister Dr Jorge Giordani.

Businessmen and senior officials are also among the 30-member presidential entourage.

According to Ochoa, the Venezuelan president recognised Malaysia as a model developing nation whose progress and development should be emulated.

"Malaysia has become an example to be followed by the developing countries in nation-building and development," he said.

While here, Chavez is also scheduled to have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and hold talks with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He is scheduled to leave for Jakarta on Tuesday to attend the G-15 summit meeting.

-- BERNAMA

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