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Mahathir-Visits

DR MAHATHIR DESCRIBES VISIT TO RUSSIA, GERMANY AND POLAND AS SUCCESSFUL

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

WARSAW, March 23 (Bernama) - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who ended his nine-day visit to three nations -- Russia, Germany and Poland -- here today described the tour as fruitful.

The Prime Minister said the visits were well received by the three governments concerned.

"They were open in our discussions with them on bilateral and international relations.

"It's clear that the three governments agree with our stand on the terrorism problem for example and they all agree that we need to increase trade between Malaysia and their countries," he said at a media conference here today before departing for home after being in this country for three days.

He said Russia had agreed to accept more Malaysian students, similarly with Germany which had agreed to forge cooperation in setting up institutions of higher learning in Malaysia.

"We also received very good response (from them), they respect our stand and agree with our stand on most international issues including on terrorism," he said.

Dr Mahathir is the first Malaysian Prime Minister to visit Poland since both countries established diplomatic relations 30 years ago.

"I'm convinced that with the visits we have established very close relations with the governments of the three countries and I believe this would contribute to our country's growth and our recognition by the international community," he said.

While in Poland, Dr Mahathir held discussions with his counterpart Laszek Miller and met with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski.

He also witnessed the capabilities of the Polish military equipment and spoke at a Malaysia-Poland business forum.

Dr Mahathir also handed Malaysia's contribution of US\$5,000 to the mosque in Glandsk-Oliwa and performed Friday prayers together with the Muslim community in the port city yesterday.

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