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SALOMON-SUCCESSION

SUCCESSION PLAN ENHANCES MALAYSIA'S SOVEREIGN CREDIT QUALITY

SINGAPORE, July 1 (Bernama) -- Salomon Smith Barney sees Malaysia's succession plan as a positive development for the country's sovereign credit quality.

"This succession plan presages a transition in power of historical dimensions for Malaysia," it said in its Asian Economic Weekly report on Malaysia.

The plan for succession to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, it said, provided for an orderly handing over of power to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, currently the deputy prime minister who is widely seen as a capable leader with moderate political views.

"We continue to expect an upgrade of Malaysia in the third quarter of this year, initiated by Moody's," it added.--BERNAMA

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