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Mahathir-Satellite

MALAYSIA'S THIRD SATELLITE WELL UNDERWAY

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SEOUL, May 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's third satellite, Medium-size Aperture Camera Satellite (Macsat), is being constructed at a research institute in South Korea.

The satellite, which is being constructed by Astronautic Technology (M) Sdn Bhd at the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science in Daejon, about two hours drive from here, is reportedly to be ready within two years.

Malaysia started its space programme with the launch of the Malaysia East Asian Satellite (Measat) in 1996 followed by the home-made TiungSAT-1 micro-satellite in 2000.

Both satellites are used for meteorology, disaster mitigation and management, pollution monitoring, digital communication, land-use mapping, geological mapping, education and entertainment applications.

Today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited Astronautic Technology where he was briefed by Prof Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman, the director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and former director-general of Malaysia's Space Science Division (Baksa).

He was also taken on a tour of the company's Space Technology Exhibition and its optical laboratory.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his delegation visited the research and development centre of LG Chem Investment facility, also in Daejon.

After the Astronautic Technology tour, Dr Mahathir proceeded to the Chongju International Airport for his departure home by special aircraft.

Among those at hand to bid him farewell were the Chief of Protocol, Brigadier General Ku Bon Dam, Malaysia's ambassador to Seoul, Datuk V. Yoolingam, and his embassy staff.

Dr Mahathir's three-day visit to South Korea was at the invitation of President Kim Dae-jung. This is his first official visit to South Korea although he had made seven working visits here previously.

Yesterday, he toured the Hyundai-KIA Motor Research and Development Centre at Hwaseong, Gyeonggi-do.

While in Seoul, Dr Mahathir had discussions with Kim, addressed four major business associations at a luncheon and witnessed the signing of seven MoUs between five Malaysian business entities and their eight partners.

-- BERNAMA

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