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Congratulatory

MALAYSIA TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH SYRIA

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia will work closely with Syria in promoting international peace and stability.

The relationship between the two countries have developed satisfactorily over the years and the continuing commitment to enhance these ties particularly in the areas of politics, trade, economics and information technology will benefit the people and the two governments, he said in a congratulatory message in conjunction with Syria's 56th National Day tomorrow.

In the message to his Syrian counterpart Dr Muhammad Mustapha Miro, the Prime Minister said he would work closely with Muhamad Mustapha towards this end.

Dr Mahathir said: "Malaysia and Syria also play a meaningful role in promoting the interest and prosperity of Islamic countries through our active involvement in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)."

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, in a similar message to his counterpart Farouk Al-Shara, said Malaysia continues to attach great importance to the existing close relations with the Syria and will do its utmost to expand and strengthen ties.

"I am certain that through continuing cooperation and economic collaboration as well as the recent establishment of embassies of both Malaysia and the Syrian Arab Republic, bilateral ties between our two countries will be further enhanced in years to come." he said.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail and the Raja Permaisuri Agong also extended their congratulations to the Syrian President Dr Bashar Hafeez Al-Assad.

Their Majesties wished the President continued good health and happiness and for peace and prosperity for the people of the Republic.

Syria gained independence from France on April 17, 1946, and was the first Arab country to become free of foreign control. The nation was a founding member of the league of Arab States and the United Nations.

-- BERNAMA

SZA AHH ANA