

12 JUN 2003

Syed Hamid-Turkey

KL, ANKARA TO SIGN MoU ON ENERGY, WATER MANAGEMENT

PUTRAJAYA, June 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Turkey will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on energy and water management during the three-day visit by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan beginning tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the two countries are also expected to explore ways to step up bilateral ties in economic, trade, culture and tourism sectors.

The current annual bilateral trade volume between the two countries stands at RM200 million.

"We appreciate Erdogan's decision, as the new Prime Minister of Turkey, to visit our country," he told reporters here today.

Syed Hamid said Kuala Lumpur and Ankara would take advantage of the visit to exchange views on bilateral and international relations.

He said Malaysia was also eyeing the Turkish market for its palm oil products.

He urged Malaysian companies to explore economic activity opportunities in Turkey, including road and highway construction, based on the expertise they have.

Syed Hamid said the visit showed Turkey was serious in its efforts to have close ties with Malaysia.

Malaysia was among the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) picked by Erdogan to visit, he said.

He is expected to arrive at the KL International Airport in Sepang tomorrow morning.

He would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department in the evening.

Erdogan would be accompanied by a 200-member entourage, including five ministers and nine Members of Parliament.

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