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PUTIN-ENTRY

PRIVILEGE TO BE GIVEN TO CERTAIN GROUP ENTERING RUSSIA, SAYS PUTIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- Russian President, Vladimir Putin today said Malaysian businessmen, politicians and students should get the privilege of easier entry into his country.

Putin, who arrived yesterday for an official visit, said while terrorist activities had demanded tighter immigration and visa rules as well as airport security, certain group of people should enjoy certain privileges.

"We have to facilitate certain categories of citizens of various countries which are developing favourable economic relations with Russia, like Malaysia," he told the Malaysia-Russia Business Forum here today.

This would among other things help to ensure a conducive environment for greater business activities between both countries, he said during a question and answer session.

Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had earlier made a courtesy call on Putin. The Russian president would leave for Russia later tonight.

Putin said Dr Mahathir had during the meeting mentioned some 400 Malaysians studying in Russia and expressed his hope that more would be pursuing their higher studies there.

Putin told the forum that multilateral trading system should serve as the base for international trading relation and in order to arrive at one, the interest of each country should be taken into consideration.

"I believe that business relation should be based on a favourable international relationship," he said.

Earlier in his speech, the Russian president said there was a great potential for greater trade between Malaysia and Russia and this included greater cooperation in the telecommunications, aviation and aerospace industries.

Other areas of possible closer cooperation are in the launching of satellites, banking and insurance business, he added. -- BERNAMA

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