

01 APR 2003

Diplomats

SEVEN DIPLOMATS ON GROUP TRIP TO PENANG

PENANG, April 1 (Bernama) -- A delegation of seven diplomats made a one-day visit to Penang today to explore opportunities especially in tourism, cultural exchange, education and health care and to promote bilateral relations between their respective countries and Malaysia's "Silicon Island".

It was the first group trip outside Kuala Lumpur by the delegation, headed by Peruvian ambassador to Malaysia Javier Gonzales Terrones.

The members of the delegation are the Chilean ambassador-designate to Malaysia Roberto Ibarra Garcia, Colombian ambassador Fernando Marin Valencia, Brazilian ambassador Edgard Telles Ribeiro, Argentinian ambassador Alfredo Raul Morelli, Ecuadorean ambassador Marco Tulio and Cuban ambassador Pedro Monzon Barata.

Gonzales told a media conference after meeting Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya said that the countries they represent hoped to forge closer ties with Penang in the future.

He said that they were also interested to seek coopertion in the electrical and electronics industries, adding that most of their countries import electronics goods from Malaysia especially Penang.

"It's good to be here and learn how the city works hard to achieve what it has today," he said.

He said that the group was also planning to organise a Latin American Festival in Penang in the future to promote better understanding of their culture among Penangites.

Meanwhile, Tulio, who has been in Malaysia for seven years, said that Malaysia had always been a good example to his country of how a small nation could develop its economy successfully.

Tulio said that he loves to be in the country, adding that nothing can describe his fascination towards Malaysia. "I can only say that 'Saya Cinta Malaysia'," he said.

Ibarra also shared the same sentiment towards Malaysia and praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his efforts in developing Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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