

28 JUL 2003

Abdullah-Commitment

ABDULLAH GIVES STRONG COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT M'SIAN-THAI COLLABORATION

LANGKAWI, July 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today gave Malaysian and Thai businessmen his commitment to ensure that whatever alliances and collaboration that they undertake will eventually come to fruition.

"I would like to say now in front of you all that I've a strong commitment to ensure that what you have decided to cooperate in will succeed finally," the deputy prime minister told about 300 Thai and Malaysian businessmen in his closing speech at the two-day Malaysia-Thailand Technology and Business Partnership Dialogue here.

"Put your minds and hearts together so that we can prove that Malaysia and Thailand can cooperate for our common prosperity," he said.

Abdullah, who is to take over Malaysia's leadership when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down in October, said he was aware that the inaugural partnership dialogue had resulted in several commitments and they were to be implemented in due course and some, perhaps, would take off immediately.

"So let us strike ahead with confidence and work together for the betterment of both Malaysia and Thailand," he said

Four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were inked between Malaysian and Thailand businessmen and government agencies to collaborate in various economic endeavours, research and development, and services at the dialogue.

Dr Mahathir and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who is on a two-day working visit here which ended today, delivered keynote addresses and jointly opened the dialogue yesterday.

The dialogue was jointly organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might), National Science and Technology Development Authority of Thailand, and the ministries of science and technology of both countries.

Earlier, Thaksin expressed confidence that bilateral ties between the two countries would continue to be strong even after the change of leadership in Malaysia in October.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told reporters that Thaksin had conveyed this to him.

Syed Hamid said Thaksin also said that he was touched by the warm welcome given by Dr Mahathir during his visit, and he was pleased with the smooth proceedings of the bilateral talks that had taken place.

"Based on this, we are confident that issues raised during discussion and the MoUs signed would become a reality," he said.

"Malaysia and Thailand's close cooperation would strengthen the economic ties between our two countries," he added.

Syed Hamid said the proposals raised during the bilateral meeting including the issuance of joint visas to facilitate trade and tourism would be followed up as soon as possible by the relevant agencies.

On the attempted coup against Philippine President Gloria Arroyo, he said he was awaiting for an in-depth report and update on the matter.

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