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Assad-Malaysia

SYRIA HOPES TO BENEFIT FROM MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE

By: Mokhtar Hussain

DAMASCUS, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- President Dr Bashar Al-Assad of Syria has expressed hope that his country could benefit from Malaysia's pioneering experience in development and manufacturing "without falling under the mercy of international organisations".

According to a Syria Times report, the President also expressed the desire for real cooperation with Malaysia, especially in the field of technology.

The President made the remarks during a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the People's Palace on Sunday.

According to the daily, both leaders stressed the importance of economic growth and prosperity as the basic condition in maintaining political independence.

Also present during the meeting were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar; Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie; Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding; Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman.

On Monday morning, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali visited Ummayyad Mosque here where they were received by Wakaf Minister Mohamad Ziadah.

The building was first known to be the Temple of the Aramaean before it was transformed by the Romans as the Temple of Jupiter. It became a church with the arrival of Christianity until 635 AD when Damascus was taken by the Islamic armies under the leadership of Khlid Ibn Al Walid.

The Prime Minister and his wife later toured Souk Hamediah (Hamediah Market), a famous bazaar named after the Ottoman Sultan Hamid, selling souvenirs, clothes, tablecloths, carpets, brassware and copperware.

-- BERNAMA

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