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German-Tourism

TOURISM OFFICE IN FRANKFURT SHOULD DO MORE, SAYS GERMAN AMBASSADOR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian tourism office in Frankfurt should do more to market the country to Germans, especially tourists, German Ambassador to Malaysia Juergen Staks said today.

There was a lack of marketing for Germans to come here, he said,

Speaking at a news conference on the just-concluded visit of German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to Malaysia, he said Schroeder had raised this point with the prime minister and deputy prime minister.

Schroeder left for Singapore this morning after a three day working visit here where he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and held talks with Malaysian government officials.

Staks said the German authorities were willing to assist the Malaysian tourism office in Frankfurt in any effort to promote Malaysia.

He said the German national airline, Lufthansa, stopped flying to Malaysia in 1998 because of the low passenger load which made the route non-profitable.

On Schroeder's visit, Staks said the leaders of the two governments had a serious and open-minded discussion on bilateral matters and the Germans were looking forward to continuing "this good relationship".

He said Schroeder also extended an invitation to Abdullah to visit Germany in the near future and the invitation was accepted at his meeting with the deputy prime minister.

He said Germany intended to continue economic engagements with Malaysia and to strengthen areas like the transfer of technology and human resource development.

He said efforts were also being made to promote closer cooperation between the two nations in the area of education. Presently there are 280 Malaysian students in Germany but Dr Mahathir, according to Staks, had promised that this number would be increased.

He also said that Germany was keen to sign a cultural agreement with Malaysia before the end of the year but several problems had to be ironed out first.

On international politics, Staks said the leaders of the two nations agreed that the United Nations must regain its status as a body that solves crises and conflicts between states.

-- BERNAMA

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