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Putin-Visit

VLADIMIR PUTIN IS FIRST RUSSIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 4 (Bernama) -- Russian President Vladimir V. Putin's one-day visit here on Tuesday is historic as it is the first official visit by a president of the Russian Federation to Malaysia.

Wisma Putra, in a statement here today, said that Putin's visit is at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamallulail, and to reciprocate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's official visit to Russia in March last year.

According to the statement, Malaysia will be the only country to be visited by Putin while in this region, reflecting the importance and significance Russia attaches to Malaysia-Russia relations.

Putin will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising ministers, deputy ministers and senior government officials. A business delegation will also be part of his entourage.

During the visit, Putin is expected to hold talks with Dr Mahathir on bilateral economic cooperation and wide-ranging international issues, including Iraq, West Asia and South-East Asia, and launch the Malaysia-Russia Business Council.

He will also attend a banquet hosted by the King.

During the visit, Putin is also scheduled to sign three agreements -- Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation; Agreement on Cooperation in Information Communications Technology; and Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Sukhoi SU-30 MKM Aircraft, Integrated Logistics Support Equipment and Services for the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Wisma Putra said that since the establishment of relations 35 years ago, both countries had enjoyed good bilateral relations based on mutual respect, characterised by the desire of both sides to enhance, improve and diversify bilateral cooperation in areas such as defence, trade, information technology, education, aerospace and aviation industries, biomedicine, linguistics and culture.

Cooperation in the education sector between both countries has been on the upward trend and currently there are approximately 400 Malaysian students pursuing their studies in various universities in Russia.

Meanwhile, bilateral trade between Malaysia and Russia last year stood at RM1,347 million.

The visit is expected to further strengthen the already close links enjoyed by Malaysia and Russia, the statement added.

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