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Dr M opens doors for Malaysia-Ukraine trade

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MALAYSIAN presence was felt in this faraway city by the Black Sea yesterday when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the door to great trading opportunities between Malaysia and Ukraine.

Like the captain of the merchant ship of the days of old, he acted as the driving force behind the pursuit of new partners for Malaysian businessmen - first witnessing the signing of three trade agreements, then getting a rundown of the operations at the Malaysia Trade Centre at the port, before capping it with the official opening of a palm oil storage facility.

Dr Mahathir, who was into the third day of his four-day official visit to Ukraine, took a special one-hour flight from Kiev. And later in the afternoon, he proceeded also by air to Simferopol and onwards to the resort city of Yalta.

The Prime Minister was met on arrival at Odessa International Airport by the city's governor, Sergei Grinyevetski.

The three collaboration agreements signed yesterday were between JM Ventures Sdn Bhd and Odessa Port Transshipment Complex, between Yasmin Marine Technology Sdn Bhd and Ukraine State Companies and between AMP Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd and Iskra-State Electro Machine Building Plant.

After lunch with the governor, Dr Mahathir departed for Simferopol where on arrival, he presented a donation of US\$10,000 (RM38,000) to a mosque fund.

Dr Mahathir spent the night at the Zarya Government Guest House in Yalta. He will meet Malaysian students today.