

Mahathir attends conference on emergence of Africa in Senegal

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PUTRAJAYA, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will lead the Malaysian delegation to the 3rd International Conference on the Emergence of Africa (ICEA) in Dakar, Senegal, on Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry (Wisma Putra) in a statement today said this will be the first appearance of the Malaysian Prime Minister at ICEA since the convening of the conference in 2015.

Themed "Emergence, Private Sector and Inclusiveness", it will be focusing on promoting and strengthening the role of the private sectors in the African emergence plans, the statement said.

Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by spouse, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali; Deputy Foreign Minister, Datuk Marzuki Yahya, as well as senior government officials from the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry.

Wisma Putra said the highlight of the prime minister's attendance at the third ICEA would be the High Level Panel Discussion which will take place after the ICEA opening ceremony this Thursday.

Wisma Putra said the session, which would also include the participation of the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda and Senegal, would provide the opportunity for Dr Mahathir to showcase the success of the public-private partnership in Malaysia.

"In addition, the Prime Minister will also be sharing Malaysia's ideas and vision on the economic and trade partnership between Malaysia and the emerging African nations," it

said.

Wisma Putra said the Prime Minister was also scheduled to have a bilateral meeting with the Senegal President to discuss matters of mutual interest with the objective of enhancing bilateral ties as well as collaboration on pertinent regional and global issues.

Malaysia and Senegal have enjoyed 33 years of diplomatic ties and have maintained strong cooperation in multiple sectors including trade and investment.

Total trade between Malaysia and Senegal in 2017 was RM372.6 million (US\$86.5 million), with Malaysia's exports amounting to RM364.5 million (US\$84.6 million) and imports from Senegal worth RM8.1 million (US\$1.87 million).

Malaysia's main exports to Senegal are palm oil and palm-based products, agriculture products, and processed food while the main imports from Senegal are cotton, crude fertilizers and crude minerals, chemicals and chemical products and manufactures of metal, Wisma Putra said.

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