

MAHATHIR - BRUNEI R.R.R.

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIAN AND BRUNEI OFFICIALS ARE TO HOLD TALKS ON BORDER ARRANGMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO FACILITATE TRAVELS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO RETURNED HERE AFTER TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SULTANATE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS WAS ALSO TO IRON OUT BORDER MATTERS.

HE SAID THIS WOULD ENABLE GREATER EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO MET THE SULTAN AND OTHER BRUNEI LEADERS DURING HIS STAY IN THE SULTANATE DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS A VERY SUCCESSFUL ONE.

BOTH COUNTRIES WERE KEEN TO UPGRADE GREATER COOPERATION ON EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION, AGRICULTURE AND IN THE TRAINING OF MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL, HE SAID. -- MORE 1935/MB

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HIS VISIT WAS TO ENABLE HIM TO SEE HOW BRUNEI WAS PROGRESSING.

+I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO BRUNEI SINCE I LAST LANDED THERE IN 1963,+ HE SAID.

+CONSIDERING THAT BRUNEI IS ACHIEVING ITS INDEPENDENCE SOON, IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SULTAN AND CALL ON OTHER LEADERS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED MALAYSIA'S OFFER OF TRAINING FACILITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF BRUNEI SHOULD SUCH COOPERATION WAS REQUIRED.

BRUNEI IS SCHEDULED TO GAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE BRITISH IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

ASKED WHETHER THE QUESTION OF DEFENCE WAS RAISED DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH BRUNEI LEADERS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED. --MORE 2025/MD

ZCZC N164 (F/S)

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ON ASEAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE BRIEFED THE SULTAN AND OTHER BRUNEI LEADERS ON THE OUTCOME OF ASEAN-EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BANGKOK LAST WEEK.

EARLIER IN BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH VISITED THE HANDICRAFT CENTRE AND THE AGRICULTURAL CENTRE IN SINAUT ABOUT 32 KM FROM BANDAR SRI BEGAWAN.

BEFORE DEPARTURE THE PRIME MINISTER HAD LUNCH WITH THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY IN BRUNEI.

HE WAS SEND-OFF AT THE BRUNEI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY PERDANA WAZIR SAHABUL HIMMAH+WAL-WAQAR PENGIRAN MUDA AND ACTING MENTERI BESAR PEHIN HAJI ABDUL AZIZ OMAR AND BRUNEI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. --BERNAMA 2030/MD