

B E823 AAE
MAHATHIR-COMMONWEALTH
BM

KUALA TERENGGANU, OCT 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CONFIRMED HE WILL BE ATTENDING THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN VANCOUVER, CANADA, FROM OCT 13 TO 17.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD BRING UP ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE APARTHEID PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA, TRADE, COMMODITIES AND PROTECTIONIST POLICIES.

HE SAID THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO TERENGGANU WHICH ENDS TOMORROW. ALSO PRESENT WAS MENTERI BESAR DATUK AMAR HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD.

ON HIS PROPOSAL YESTERDAY FOR THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL ANTI-DADAH CORPS IN SCHOOLS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MATTER SHOULD BE STUDIED BY VARIOUS GROUPS LIKE PEMADAM AND DADAH-RELATED AGENCIES.

HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT GROUPS BE FORMED IN ALL SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DADAH ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS. MATTERS SUCH AS HOW STUDENTS COULD REPORT DADAH ACTIVITIES AROUND THEM COULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE GROUPS.

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1634MST 04 10 87

B E824 AAE
MAHATHIR-COMMONWEALTH 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

ON THE MALAYSIAN-THAI TUNA FISHING JOINT VENTURE LAUNCHED RECENTLY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CATCHES OBTAINED SO FAR BUT THERE WERE SOME TEETHING PROBLEMS.

HE SAID CLAIMS THAT THE THAIS WERE TAKING THE CATCH STRAIGHT HOME INSTEAD OF UNLOADING THEM AT KUANTAN PORT IN PAHANG AS REQUIRED UNDER THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED FIRST FOR AUTHENTICITY.

HOWEVER, BASED ON FEEDBACK SO FAR, 37 OF THE 40 BOATS INVOLVED IN THE VENTURE HAD LANDED THEIR CATCH IN KUANTAN FOR ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION BEFORE EXPORT TO THAILAND AS STIPULATED BY THE AGREEMENT.

HE ALSO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM THE NATIONAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION (NEKMAT) THAT 150 TO 1,000 FOREIGN BOATS WERE TRESPASSING IN MALAYSIAN WATERS. -- MORE

1645MST 04 10 87

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HE WILL ASK THE RELEVANT OFFICERS TO FURNISH HIM WITH FURTHER INFORMATION IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF BOATS CLAIMED TO BE INVOLVED.

ON HIS VISIT HERE, HE SAID IT WAS A CONTINUATION FROM HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO KELANTAN IN HIS NATION-WIDE UNITY TOUR.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SO FAR VISITED PULAU PINANG, PAHANG, JOHOR AND MELAKA. -- BERNAMA

1645MST 04 10 87