

CNS849.t

R GE 23-11 00238 EB990

aae tbe

Mahathir-trips

(A) Dr. M - overseas trips.

I FEEL TIRED-TOO, SAYS MAHATHIR OF HIS FOREIGN TRIPS

From Azman U jang

DAKAR (Senegal), Nov 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he too feels tired when going on his foreign trips but it is something he does not mind doing especially for the sake of South-South co-operation.

The Prime Minister, who has visited every continent, of the world, says if those many trips abroad produce the result he desires, it will make them worthwhile and take away the tiredness that he feels.

+I feel tired but I'm still young at 67 years old,+ said Dr Mahathir to Malaysian journalists at his hotel suite when asked of his extensive travels.

Before coming here to attend the Summit of the Group of 15 (G-15) developing countries, Dr Mahathir had concluded a five-day official visit to Namibia.

And after three days here for the summit, he leaves on Tuesday to Tunisia for another official visit.

A journalist had asked the Prime Minister about whether he had any secrets for being able to take the pressure of travelling while some Malaysian journalists covering him could not cope with his pace.

He broke into laughter at the question and quipped: +There is no secret but you feel that it is something you like doing. I too feel tired actually. +--- more

▼23/11/10-45MST

CNS8492

R GE 23-11 00185 EB991

aae tbe

Mahathir-trips 2 Dakar

+But if the trips produce results then I won't feel tired,+ he added.

Asked if he was planning to go on another trip before the end of this year, he replied: +No. That is enough and after Tunisia I am going home.+

He said he would like to visit a country for three days at the most 'but due to certain reasons, sometimes such a trip would take five days just like his Namibian visit.

+I would like to go home. There is plenty of work to be done and after this the work is piling up waiting for me.+

Dr Mahathir described his just concluded trip to Namibia as very interesting because he began 'to understand how the country was developing after being controlled by other powers in the past.

He said Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, is very 'nice' and beautiful unlike most African capitals.

\*It is very modern like Europe. It, has very good' infrastructure although it has no water resources.+ -- more

▼23/11/10-47MST

CNS8493

R GE 23-11 00133 EB992

aae the

I: Mahathir-trips 3 (last) Dakar

Dr Mahathir said he was confident, the government in Namibia, which took over following its independence from South Africa in 1990, would bring about greater economic progress given the well-developed infrastructure it inherited and its style of administration which is different from other African nations.

Asked about the future of Malaysia's relations with South Africa, he said Malaysia 'as a member of the Commonwealth had to comply with decisions taken by the grouping with regard to South Africa.

At present the Commonwealth only allows its members to have people to people relations and not government to government.

For this reason, Malaysia's status of relations would remain at the present, level for the time being. -- Bernama

▼23/11/10-49MST