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Mahathir - Somalia

MALAYSIA WILL SEND FORCES TO SOMALIA, MAHATHIR.

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LANGKAWI, June 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will send its peace keeping force to serve under the United Nations in Somalia despite the killing of Pakistani soldiers there, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Speaking to reporters here, he said Malaysia had given an undertaking to send its forces there and would take all measures necessary to ensure their safety.

Replying to reporters questions, he said, "We should not forget that such duty entails danger."

Asked whether the government would supply sophisticated weapons to the Somalia-bound soldiers, the Prime Minister said it was up to the armed forces to decide whether it wanted to provide such weapons, bullet proof vests and so on.

"We have given our commitment, we cannot say to the world our troops will only go if the situation is safe," the Prime Minister said. -- more

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Mahathir - Somalia 2 Langkawi

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia had made arrangements to visit member nations of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to inform them that its envoy had a special formula to resolve the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The formula cannot be disclosed until Malaysia had obtained the views of the OIC member countries," he said.

Asked as to who was the special envoy, Dr Mahathir said it had not been decided.

The Prime Minister also said the various development projects on Langkawi were being implemented on schedule.

He said most of the hotels under construction for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) exhibition would be ready by September.

The conference hall and expo centre at the Langkawi Airport would also be ready on time, he said. -- more

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Mahathir - Somalia 3 (last) Langkawi

Dr Mahathir also said about 80 per cent of the shop houses and business premises built on reclaimed land had been sold.

He said the government decided to reclaim land from the sea for development projects because Langkawi residents were not very keen to allow their land to be taken up for development.

He said investors were keen to invest in Langkawi because of the many facilities being provided by the government including loan facilities from banks.

Noting that the transport facilities here were not very satisfactory, the Prime Minister said that the government was willing to give licence to anyone interested in providing better service.

Soil tests were also being conducted to lengthen the Langkawi Airport runway to enable bigger aircraft such as Boeing 747 to land, he said. --

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