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GOVT WILL STUDY MUSTAPHA'S REQUEST FOR TWO DEPUTIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug. 22<sup>93</sup> (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will study a request by newly-appointed Sabah Affairs Minister Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun for two deputies to assist him. (8)

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters at the Sungai Besi Royal Malaysian Air Force station on his return from a four-day official visit to Thailand.

Mustapha, who was sworn in as Minister two days ago, had said he required two deputies to help him in his duties.

Dr Mahathir was greeted by his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and other officials.

During his visit, Dr Mahathir held discussions with his Thai counterpart Chuan Leekpai on wide-ranging issues including efforts to promote the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle and the possibility of assembling Proton cars in Thailand.

The Prime Minister's delegation included Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, Langkawi Development Authority chairman Tun Daim Zainuddin, the Menteri Besar of Perlis, Kedah and Perak and Chief Minister of Pulau Pinang, and businessmen.

Dr Mahathir and his delegation flew to Koh Samui, an island resort in the Gulf of Thailand, yesterday for an overnight visit to look at its tourism development projects. -- Bernama

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