

CNS5549

R GE 25-09 00126 ED443

mes eng

Mahathir

MAINTAIN EXCELLENCE, MAHATHIR TO MALBATT

bm

SUNGAI PETANI, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Malaysian soldiers bound for UN service in Bosnia Herzegovina to serve with excellence, maintain a high standard of discipline and safeguard the country's image.

Malaysian soldiers who had served in various parts of the world under the United Nations had so far done well and earned the praise of the world body, he said when he visited the Malbatt-Bosnia Herzegovina contingent at Camp Three here.

During the visit, Dr Mahathir placed the official UN berets on Malbatt Commander Kol. Md Hashim Hussen and four other soldiers. -- more

AG AAM

▼25/09/13-18MST

CNS5559

R GE 25-09 00182 ED444

mes eng

Mahathir 2 (last) Sungai Petani

Dr Mahathir accompanied by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak inspected a parade mounted by 812 officers and men under the command of Lt Kol Che Hasni Che Ahmad who is deputy chief of the Malbatt contingent.

A total of 183 of the full Bosnia bound contingent of 1489 soldiers would leave for Bosnia Herzegovina on Sept 30.

A 21-member "Advance Liaison Team" left for Bosnia on Sept 21. The rest of the contingent would leave for the European country in two batches before December.

Expressing his appreciation for the soldiers, the Prime Minister said they were taking on a heavy responsibility and would face dangers but he was confident they would be able to stand up to the challenges.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia would continue to support the efforts of the United Nations in maintaining world peace and security.

Malaysia sympathised with the sufferings of the people of Bosnia - Herzegovina, he added. -- Bernama

AZG KHY AAM

▼25/09/13-14MST

CNS5569

R GE 25-09 00206 ED445

mes eng

Taih - Allegation

▼25/09/16-27MST

CNS5712

U GE 25-09 00187 EA256

eng mes

Mahathir 3 Sungai Petani (re-opens item E523)

bm

At a press conference later, Dr Mahathir said he would touch on the Bosnia problem in his address to the United Nations General Assembly as Malaysia was still dissatisfied with Europe's handling of the issue such as the question of aid to the Bosnian people.

He would speak on various matters, including the role of the mass media and the need to restructure the UN Security Council.

When asked to comment on the views of British Prime Minister John Major on Bosnia when he visited Malaysia recently, Dr Mahathir said: "I have discussed the issue with him, He expressed his views and I gave mine."

"We still believe that our proposal is more effective. That's our views.. if he disagrees, never mind," he said.

In his speech at a dinner for Major recently, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia wanted Britain and the European Community (EC) to use their influence to end the sufferings of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. -- more

KHY OS RN

▼25/09/17-38MST

U GE 25-09 00114 EA257

eng mes

Mahathir 4 Sungai Petani

He also said that Britain needed to review its position in the issue before it was too late.

Major had said that Britain was more keen on finding a long-term solution to the problem and not a short-term one.

Dr Mahathir also said he was satisfied with the morale of the armed forces personnel leaving for Bosnia.

"I am confident that they will be able to perform their duties efficiently," he said.

"So far we do not encounter much problems in providing them the necessary equipment, including preparations for the winter."-- more

KHY OS RN

▼25/09/17-39MST

U GE 25-09 00076 EA258

eng mes

Mahathir 5 (last) Sungai Petani

Dr Mahathir later had lunch with members of the Bosnia-bound battalion.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Chief of Defence Forces Jen Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid and Army Chief Jen Tan Sri Borhan Ahmad. -- Bernama

KHY OS RN

▼25/09/17-42MST "