

CNS9167

R GE 30-12 00169 EA611

aae

Mahathir-Japan

DR MAHATHIR MEETS JAPANESE PERSONALITIES

dm

LANGKAWI, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held talks with three Japanese personalities before ending his two-day private visit here this afternoon.

The three -- Mitsui Chairman Encik K.Ejiri, Industrial Bank of Japan President Encik Y.Kurosawa and Prof I.Nakatani of Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo -- and 15 support staff from Japan arrived here yesterday with Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The Prime Minister's Chief Senior Private Secretary, Datuk Abdul Aziz Ismail, told reporters at the Langkawi International Airport here before the departure of Dr Mahathir and the delegation for Kuala Lumpur that the aim of the Prime Minister's private visit to the island was to exchange views with the Japanese personalities.

He said that this morning's talks, which lasted for about three hours, centred on trade and economic relations. -- more

KHY MTA RM

▼30/12/18-17MST

CNS9168

R GE 30-12 00154 EA612

aae

Mahathir-Japan 2 (last) Langkawi

He said that they were taken to interesting places here like the Crocodile Farm at Teluk Datai and several leading hotels to impress on them Langkawi's potential as a tourist resort.

The Prime Minister and the delegation had lunch at a restaurant-in-the-swamp developed on an idea mooted by Dr Mahathir.

Abdul Aziz said the Japanese personalities were quite fascinated with the tourism facilities available here.

He said that Dr Mahathir often held similar discussions and exchange of views with corporate figures from various countries from time to time.

Among those at the airport were Kedah Agriculture Committee Chairman Datuk Abu Bakar Taib, Tourism and Entrepreneurial Committee Chairman Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain, Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) General Manager Haji Abdul Halil Abdul Mutalib and Langkawi District Officer Ku Nahar Ku Ibrahim. -- Bernama

KHY MTA RM