

# Dr M: Tap Albania's tourism potential

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysian investors were today urged by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to tap the vast tourism potential in southern Albania.

He said there was much potential for developing the tourism industry in the region.

"I will propose to our investors to visit several areas in Albania that I have identified as having vast tourism potential."

Dr Mahathir said although he was not accompanied by any businessmen on his trip to Albania, there were already 15 Malaysian investors in the country who were keen to invest there.

He said the island of Corfu which is located near Albania had tourist arrivals of up to two million but few tourists visited southern Albania.

Dr Mahathir said this during a Press conference on his arrival here at the Bilek

Bunga Raya VVIP lounge following his return from a holiday abroad.

During his unofficial visit he held meetings with President Prof Dr Sali Berisha, Prime Minister Alexander Meksi and several other leaders.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysian investors in Albania had encountered problems pertaining to acquiring land for projects such as building of shopping complexes, condominiums and flats.

They had also faced problems with certain laws in the country. Dr Mahathir said he had raised the matter with the Albanian leaders and was given an assurance these problems would be dealt with.

Dr Mahathir added that Berisha offered to provide adequate incentives to Malaysian investors.

Dr Mahathir said plans by Malaysian investors to build 1,000 units of flats near Tirana would be able to take off soon.

Asked about his trip to the Paris international airshow, he said he had the opportunity to see various aircraft on display.

Dr Mahathir said he also visited the London City Airport for four hours to look at its administration and construction as a guide to having a similar airport at Sungai Besi.

He said everyone should cooperate and think of the project on the basis of national interests.

Dr Mahathir said he also visited the Fiat Corporation in Turin to discuss the type of trains suitable for Malaysia particularly the pendulum trains which used the tilting technology.

He also visited a factory manufacturing TGV high-speed trains which could travel at speeds of up to 300km per hour.

Asked about his visit to the Canary Wharf in the United Kingdom which was designed by the same architects as the Kuala Lumpur

City Centre project, Dr Mahathir said the development was systematic.

He added that he took some photographs of the landscaping used in the project and said that there was much Malaysia could learn from the Canary Wharf development.

Asked about the rotation for the post of Sabah Chief Minister, Dr Mahathir said he had not thought about it.

He declined to answer further questions on the matter but said: "We have made a promise and we will uphold it."

On whether the Government would introduce further liberalisation measures in the financial sectors, Dr Mahathir said the Government's approach was to study if there was any restriction to the growth of the economy.

"If we find that through further liberalisation our economy will grow further then we will institute the necessary measures."