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Mahathir-meeting

DR MAHATHIR TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT CAPAM MEETING

By: Salbiah Said

MALTA, April 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver a keynote address at the second biennial conference of the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) on Monday.

The Conference, themed "The New Public Administration: Global Challenges - Local Solutions", will focus on the common elements of change in any type of institutional reform which are organisation, people and information technology.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived here Sunday for the four-day conference. They were met on arrival by Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Prof Guido de Marco.

The conference will be officiated by Maltese Prime Minister Dr Edward Fenech-Adami.

Also in the delegation are Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, who is also Vice-President of CAPAM, Director-General of the Malaysian Administrative and Modernisation Planning Unit Datuk Dr Abdullah Abdul Rahman, Deputy Director-General of the Public Services Department Datuk Wira Mohd Zam Abdul Wahab and Dr Halim Shafie, Director of the National Institute of Public Administration.

CAPAM, incepted in mid-1994, is devoted to the exchange of timely information on the government renewal efforts of the 51-member countries of the Commonwealth.

CAPAM members are Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Britain, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta and Mauritius.

Others are Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago and Tuvalu.

Uganda, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Cook Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Monstserrat, Niue, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena, Tokelau, and Turks and Caicos islands.

CAPAM was set-up to enhance Commonwealth cooperation to improve managerial competence and organisation excellence in government.

It also exchanges experiences on new developments and innovations in management in governments by building networks among top decision makers and administrators and provides rapid asses to information on best practices in government administration.

According to Capam in a statement issued here, the three elements on organisation, people and information technology, were inextricably linked and failure to address one adequately could serious inpair the potential benefits of any change.

"However while this challenges are largely consistant in many countries, the solution applied very often need adaptation for local condition," it says.

The conference will also look at what had been achieved by the very countries in recent years and the lesson learnt.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah will attend a dinner hosted

by his counterpart from Malta tonight at the latter's summer residence.

While here, Dr Mahathir will also be interviewed by Malta National Televisyen after delivering his keynote address. He will also pay a courtesy call on his Maltese counterpart at the latter's office.

Dr Mahathir had earlier visited three Balkan states - Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia beginning April 18. In Croatia, the Prime Minister officiated the Malaysian Products Exhibition 1996 at the Zagreb International Trade Fair.

He had also witnessed the signing of nine Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and instruments of agreement and launched Proton Wira 400 Series for the Croatian market.

In Bosnia, Dr Mahathir also met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and members of the country's presidency. He also witnessed the signing of several MoUs among them between Telekom Malaysia Berhad and Public Enterprise PTT of Bosnia Herzegovina after being conferred with the highest Bosnia award at an investiture ceremony.

In Skopje, Macedonia, Dr Mahathir met President of Macedonia Republic, Branko Srvankovski. -- Bernama

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