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MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR FOUR-DAY WORKING VISIT TO CHINA

By: Zainoor Sulaiman

BEIJING, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to begin a four-day working visit to enhance closer Sino-Malaysia economic cooperation.

He was met on arrival at the Beijing Capital International Airport by Vice Minister, State Planning Commission Zeng Peiyan who is also the chairman of the reception committee, Malaysian ambassador here, Amir Jaafar, and senior officials from the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Malaysian embassy.

The prime minister later left in a motorcade to the China World Hotel where he, his official entourage and the Malaysian business delegation will be staying during his visit here.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will visit the Summer Palace and call at the Diaoyutai State Guest House where he will visit a Chinese painting exhibition and demonstration.

On Monday, Dr Mahathir will hold talks with his Chinese counterpart, Li Peng, at the Great Hall of the People and before delivering his keynote address at the Beijing Dialogue on Malaysia-China Partnership organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

Other Malaysian speakers at the dialogue include Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik, Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn.

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to call on Chinese President Jiang Zemin and meet Vice Premier Zhu Rongji. -- BERNAMA

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