

29 APR 1996

Mahathir-Visit

MAHATHIR ARRIVES TOMORROW FOR VISIT TO BRUNEI

By: Abdul Rahman Ahmad

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make a one-day working visit to Brunei tomorrow to strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister will arrive here at about noon and immediately head for Istana Nurul Iman for talks with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

Dr Mahathir and Sultan Hassanal, who is also the Prime Minister of Brunei, are expected to discuss matters of mutual interest.

If the weather permits, both leaders will go horse riding after which they are scheduled to have a private dinner.

Dr Mahathir will also meet representatives of the Malaysian community here at the residence of the Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei, Haji Salim Hashim, on Wednesday morning before leaving the sultanate for Pulau Layang-Layang and Labuan.

According to Brunei Labour Department statistics, Malaysians form the biggest group of foreign workers in Brunei.

There are 22,800 Malaysians working in the private sector while another 874 serve as nurses, doctors and lecturers on contract to the Brunei government.

Last year, Malaysia exported to Brunei RM740 million worth of goods which comprised mainly food items, household appliances, building materials and general merchandise.

The latest Malaysian attractions among the people of Brunei are the national cars, Proton and Kancil.

By the end of last year, 1,400 Proton cars have been sold in Brunei while the first batch of 10 Kancils which made their debut here this year have been snapped up. The second batch of 20 Kancils will arrive next month. -- BERNAMA

ARA CTL