

4 JAN 1996

MALAYSIA'S BOP DEFICIT TO BE DISCUSSED AT FORUM ON JAN 11

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's balance of payments deficit will be discussed at a forum here on Jan 11, it was announced today.

Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) is organising the forum based on the theme, "Reducing the Balance of Payments Deficit -- Challenge and Response".

It will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will also present a keynote address which is expected to touch on the government's strategy to overcome the balance of payments deficit.

ASLI president Mirzan Mahathir told a press conference on the forum that the premier had consented to have an open dialogue with about 200 participants.

Topics had been specially selected to highlight specific areas that have an impact on the balance of payments deficit such as the need to promote exports and develop Malaysia's service economy, freight and shipping, insurance and the outflow of funds from Malaysian students studying overseas, he said.

"This national economic forum aims to give participants a better grasp of the balance of payments situation in the country as well as to get an opportunity to debate on the strategies that need to be put in place in order to address the situation for the long term," Mirzan said.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will deliver a paper on "Reducing the Outflow of Funds From Overseas Education -- Towards Making Malaysia a Regional Education Centre".

Mirzan said ASLI had invited Najib to present the paper as the outflow of funds for overseas education amounted to about RM2.5 billion annually.

He said the forum was relevant for corporate managers, entrepreneurs, investment analysts, fund managers, corporate managers, researchers, manufacturers, bankers and stockbrokers. -- BERNAMA