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Mahathir-Visit

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left today for a six-day official visit to Kuwait and Bahrain to promote cooperation in trade and investment.

He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, and a delegation of more than 40 people, including Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Affifuddin Omar and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

They were sent off at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang by Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and several other ministers and senior government officers.

Dr Mahathir's itinerary will start with a three-day visit to Kuwait at the invitation of crown prince Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al-Sabah who is also the prime minister. This will be followed by a visit to Bahrain at the invitation of the prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al-Khalifa.

Malaysia and Kuwait are expected to sign an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation during bilateral discussions scheduled for the second day of his visit there.

In Bahrain, Dr Mahathir will address the Gulf Economic Forum and meet bank officials besides holding bilateral talks.

Malaysia's trade with Kuwait last year amounted to RM296 million while that with Bahrain stood at RM100 million. -- BERNAMA

RHM JK