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Mahathir-Malawi

HECTIC SCHEDULE AWAITS MAHATHIR IN MALAWI TODAY

By: E. Sivabalan

BLANTYRE (MALAWI), May 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will hold talks with Malawi President Dr Bakili Muluzi here today on the second day of his visit to this southern African country.

The meeting to take place at the Sanjika Palace, the presidential office, is scheduled at 9.30am (3.30pm Malaysian time).

Accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Dr Mahathir arrived yesterday at this commercial and industrial city, about 300km north-west of Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, for a three-day official visit.

The Prime Minister's entourage include Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Leo Moggie and a business delegation led by the Arab-Malaysian group chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim.

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the Blantyre City Centre Hotel, a RM70 million joint venture project between Malaysian-based G-Two Holdings Berhad and the Malawi Development Corporation.

The Prime Minister would then depart for the Malabada Housing Scheme in the Ndirande Township near here where he will perform a symbolic handover of 100 low-cost houses to Dr Muluzi.

The scheme, which is part of a RM3 billion satellite township project, is being undertaken by G-Two Holdings.

Later in the afternoon, Dr Mahathir and Dr Muluzi will perform Friday prayers at the Blantyre mosque followed by a private lunch at Sanjika Palace.

The two leaders would then depart for Mount Soche Hotel here to witness the signing of an agreement between G-Two Holdings and the Malawian government for the construction of a highway.

This will be followed by a visit to Telekom Networks Limited headquarters here by Dr Mahathir. The company is a joint venture between Telekom Malaysia Berhad and the Malawi Post and Telecommunication Corporation.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold a news conference at 5.30pm (11.30pm Malaysian time) before attending an official dinner hosted by the Malawian president.

Meanwhile, a separate programme has been arranged for Dr Siti Hasmah today which include visits to the Lirangwe Batik Group Rural Women project and the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital here. -- BERNAMA

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