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HONG KONG'S NEW LEADER MEETS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held talks with Hong Kong's new leader Tung Chee-hwa at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

Tung arrived here earlier today for a two-day visit to Malaysia, his first overseas trip since becoming the territory's chief executive.

The prime minister had said last night during a live interview over CNN's Q&A programme that Kuala Lumpur wanted to know more about the present system in Hong Kong now that it has become part of China.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia and Hong Kong would like to continue doing business as in the past.

Tung, Hong Kong's first leader under Chinese rule, was earlier quoted as saying in Hong Kong that he would use the trips to "emphasise Hong Kong's international role, and to pledge the active role we will play ... in financial affairs."

Tung said he would use the opportunity to introduce Hong Kong's latest economic development to attract more investors.

Earlier, Tung called on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He is also scheduled to call on Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Tung will also visit Singapore before returning to Hong Kong.

-- BERNAMA

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