

20 SEP 1997

Mahathir-Meeting

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR HONG KONG TO SPEAK AT WORLD BANK/IMF MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Hong Kong this morning to deliver a keynote address at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) seminar.

The prime minister will speak on "Asia As Opportunity" at the seminar later today.

Among those present at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport to send him off his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

Dr Mahathir will be joined in Hong Kong by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who will represent Malaysia at the World Bank/IMF meetings.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, is due to arrive there Sunday.

The 10-day World Bank and IMF meetings at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre are being held amid a financial turmoil in the Southeast Asian region.

The meetings, which started on Monday, are to examine and address global developments and focus on financial deregulation and supervision and debt relief which was made even more urgent by the crisis.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, which organises the meetings, expects 14,000 participants including prime ministers, ministers, officials, bankers and journalists.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to return home tomorrow. -- BERNAMA

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