

ompetitive
edge, he added.

Meanwhile, three senior officers from the Philippine embassy in Kuala Lumpur are here to help in the regularisation exercise.

Deputy Chief of Mission L. Belmonte, vice-consul Bernardita L. Catalla and attache Mipantao A. Sarip, will also be in Labuan for the same purpose.

The group called on Yong and Special Task Force for Sabah and Labuan Director Abu Talib Harun today and gave a briefing on the embassy's plans to help implement the programme.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting with Yong, Belmonte said the initial consular teams were due to commence work from March 15 in Kota Kinabalu, Labuan, Sandakan and Tawau

She called on the Philippine nationals concerned in Sabah and Labuan to come forward and obtain valid travel documents during the regularisation period. -- BERNAMA

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28 FEB 1997

KG SIMPOH UMNO BRANCH CHIEF TO ANSWER MURDER CHARGE

PULAU PINANG, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Kampung Simpoh Umno branch chairman Mohamed Saberi Othman will make his defence on a murder charge in the High Court here on March 11.

Justice Datuk Abdul Hamid Mohamad today fixed two days for the hearing.

Saberi, 38, a businessman is charged with the murder of sub-contractor Teoh Soo Kim, 31, of Lunas, Kedah, in an oil palm estate in Jalan Tasek, Simpang Ampat, Seberang Prai Selatan, between 11pm on April 12 last year and lam the following day.

On Monday, Abdul Hamid acquitted and discharged three others -- Saberi's wife, Rohani Ahmad, 29, boat operator Romzi Omar, 27, and cook Fauzi Omar, 22 -- who were jointly charged with Saberi, without calling for their defence.

Deputy public prosecutor Ishak Yusoff informed the court today that the Public Prosecutor would be appealing against their acquittal. -- BERNAMA

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28 FEB 1997

Mahathir-Meeting

MBC MEETING GIVES CLEARER IDEA ON TACKLING ECONOMIC ISSUES

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the public and private sectors now have a clearer idea of what to do in tackling the various economic issues, including the balance of payments deficit.

This followed a three-hour meeting of the high-powered Malaysian Business Council, which comprised leading corporate captains, at Bank Negara, here.

Speaking after chairing the meeting, Dr Mahathir said the council studied various working papers pertaining to the country's balance of payments d