

20 JUL 1998

Australian-Visit

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 20 (Bernama) -- Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer will make a three-day official visit to Malaysia from Wednesday to help enhance bilateral ties.

Downer's visit was at the invitation of Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

This would be his fourth official visit to Malaysia since being appointed foreign minister in early 1996.

He will be accompanied by advisers and a senior official from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the statement said.

Apart from identifying new avenues for cooperation, Downer and Abdullah were also expected to exchange views on regional and international issues.

Downer will call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the statement said.

He will also hold talks on issues of common interest with Minister of Special Functions Tun Dain Zainuddin and Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Downer will attend a lunch hosted by the Malaysia-Australia Foundation on Thursday and address the Malaysia-Australia Business Council annual dinner at night.

He will leave for Manila on Friday to attend the Asean Ministerial Meetings/Post Ministerial Conferences, the statement added.

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