

20 APR 1998

DR MAHATHIR MEETS SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today held talks with South Australia Premier John Olsen at the Prime Minister's office.

Olsen, accompanied by a 30-member delegation, arrived here yesterday for four-day mission to look for a long-term relationship with Malaysian businessmen in areas such as aquaculture and education as well as health.

The South Australian Premier earlier met International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz at her office here.

Olsen earlier expressed his confidence over Malaysia's strong economic future and believed that it would "re-emerge faster" from the economic crisis.

He said despite the current difficulties, Malaysia's economic fundamentals were strong.

As at 1996/97, South Australia's import from Malaysia was valued at A\$38 million (RM92.7 million). The items include food and live animal, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials.

While its export to Malaysia in 1996/97 which was valued at A\$115 million include metal products, basic iron and steel, agriculture, forestry and fishing, food, beverage and tobacco, and machinery equipment.

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