

23 JUL 1998

Mahathir-Africa

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR AFRICA

SEPANG, July 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for South Africa early today on the first leg of a week-long visit to Africa that will also take him to Namibia and Mozambique.

Dr Mahathir accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali left the KL International Airport here at about 1am for Johannesburg.

They were seen off by Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

In South Africa, the Prime Minister will hold talks with Acting President Thabo Mbeki.

Dr Mahathir will also open the Malaysian High Commission's new Chancery at Pretoria and launch the Malaysian Food and Cultural Fest there.

The Prime Minister's programme also includes a meeting with representatives of Malaysian companies in South Africa.

On July 25, the Prime Minister will be in Namibia for a five-day working visit during which he will attend the Southern Africa International Dialogue '98.

Dr Mahathir will hold talks with Namibia's President Dr Samuel Nujoma as well as with other African leaders attending the dialogue including President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President of Malawi Dr Bakili Muluzi and Ghana's President Jerry Rawlings.

The Prime Minister will address the dialogue on "Global Cooperative Governance".

From Namibia, Dr Mahathir will leave for Maputo, Mozambique on July 29.

In Mozambique, he will hold talks with President Joaquim Alberto Chissano and attend a dialogue with entrepreneurs organised by Petronas. He will also tour an industrial zone.

Dr Mahathir leaves for Kuala Lumpur on July 31.

--BERNAMA

RAZ AAM