

10 SEP 1998

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY APPOINTED FINANCIAL ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10 (Bernama) -- Salomon Smith Barney has been appointed financial adviser to the government and will assist in the restructuring and recapitalisation of the Malaysian banking sector.

Prime Minister and First Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the announcement at a press conference here today.

He said, "The government will appreciate any form of help, it is irrelevant whether it is foreign or local."

Mahathir also said that the government was not anti-foreign and would not reject something beneficial.

As for the duration of the appointment of Salomon Smith Barney, he said there was no specific timeframe.

The international financial consultancy company will also have the task of designing and implementing a substantial financing programme when market conditions are appropriate.

Salomon Smith Barney was founded by Charles D. Barney, a stock broker, and Edward B. Smith, an investment banker, in the 19th century.

Smith and Barney were also pioneers of the American securities industry and helped make Wall Street become the world's top financial market.

On Dec 31, 1993, Smith Barney became a wholly owned subsidiary of Travelers Group Inc, a leading diversified financial services company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Salomon Inc and Travelers Group announced on Sept 24, 1997 that they agreed to combine Salomon Inc with Smith Barney Holdings, a subsidiary of Travelers Group, into a company known as Salomon Smith Barney Holdings Inc.

-- BERNAMA
AA DVS SHY