

25 JUL 1999

Mahathir-Busy

BUSY THREE DAYS FOR DR MAHATHIR IN LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, July 25 (Bernama) -- A hectic schedule awaits Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in this island resort for three days as he plays host to some of the world's top politicians and captains of industries at the fourth Langkawi International Dialogue (LID).

Upon his arrival from Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dr Mahathir got down to business with a briefing on the LID from the chairman of the United Kingdom-based Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) and joint chairman of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might), Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman.

CPTM and Might are the co-organisers of the four-day LID which kicks off later today.

The prime minister also managed to hold bilateral talks with Botswana President Festus G. Mogae late yesterday before joining a king, presidents and prime ministers at an informal dinner at a posh beach and spa resort here.

Among the leaders participating in the dialogue are Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, King Mswati III of Swaziland, Sudanese President Lt-Gen Omar Hassan Ahmad, Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano and Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma.

The dialogue with the theme, "Managing Economic Recovery for Shared Prosperity -- The Smart Partnership Approach", will also see the participation of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several cabinet ministers.

Today, Dr Mahathir started his day by witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Golden Life Berhad and Syarikat Emkay at the Langkasuka Port project site.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to host a lunch for the LID participants and later moderate the first special closed session.

This will be followed by a dialogue between the heads of state and government and the media which would be moderated by Chief Secretary to the Government and joint chairman of LID '99 Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

In the evening, the prime minister will deliver his keynote address at a banquet.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will participate in several sessions where he will share Malaysia's experience in handling the financial crisis, especially on the steps taken to put the country's economy back on the road to recovery.

On Tuesday, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to moderate a session on "LID '99 The Way Forward Into The Millennium" before attending the closing dinner.

The prime minister is scheduled to leave for Kuala Lumpur after the dinner.

-- BERNAMA

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