

25 SEP 1999

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR NEW YORK TO ATTEND UN MEETING

SEPANG, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight left for New York to attend the 54th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister boarded a Malaysia Airlines flight that was scheduled to arrive in the US city on Sunday morning (Sunday night in Malaysia).

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was among those present at the KL International Airport here to send off Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, the final day of his stay in New York, after called on UN secretary general Kofi Annan and the current general assembly president Theo-Ben Gurirab.

The prime minister is scheduled to speak at the Asia Society Corporate Dinner on Monday, while the following day he would address the Malaysian-US Business Council's inaugural session and the US Council on Foreign Relations.

During his four-day stay in New York, he is also scheduled to meet US tourism industry leaders and the local Malaysian community.

The last time Dr Mahathir attended the UN General Assembly session was in 1996 when Tan Sri Razali Ismail, then Malaysia's permanent representative to the UN, was appointed the president of the assembly.

-- BERNAMA

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