

13 MAY 1999

BONDS

M'SIA FILES REGISTRATION WITH US SEC ON BOND ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission a shelf registration statement under Schedule B of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 for the issuance of up to US\$3.0 billion in debt securities, of which up to US\$2 billion will be issued initially, the Finance Ministry announced today.

In a statement, the ministry said the global bonds will be offered to investors in Asia, Europe and the U.S.

It also announced the appointment of Salomon Smith Barney as lead manager for the global bond offering.

An investor road show has also been planned in Asia, Europe and the U.S. commencing Monday, the ministry said, adding that today's announcement was not an offer of securities for sale in the U.S.

It explained that securities may not be offered or sold in the U.S. without registration or exemption from registration.

The ministry said any public offering of securities to be made by Malaysia in the U.S. will be made by means of a prospectus containing detailed information on Malaysia and may be obtained from the Malaysian government and Salomon Smith Barney.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia will send three teams to promote the bonds overseas.

The first team will be led by the First Finance Minister, Tun Daim Zainuddin, the second by the Second Finance Minister, Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and the third by top Bank Negara Malaysia officials.

The government had "tested the waters" by getting feedback from international financial institutions, the prime minister told reporters after opening the new Selangor UMNO building in Shah Alam.

Meanwhile, Mustapa was quoted as saying that he would embark on a 10-day roadshow to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Milan, Frankfurt, Boston and New York to promote the bond issue, beginning Monday.

He said the government's financial adviser, Salomon Smith Barney, has registered with U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on May 11 to state Malaysia's decision to issue the bonds. -- BERNAMA

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