

30 OCT 1999

Wiranto-Mahathir

WIRANTO CALLS ON MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Visiting Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Gen Tan Sri Wiranto called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department, here, today.

The former Indonesian armed forces chief, who arrived here yesterday, spent about an hour with the prime minister.

"The purpose of my visit is to introduce myself after assuming my new post. We also discussed bilateral ties," Wiranto, who was appointed to the post in the new cabinet announced by fourth Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid recently, told reporters after the meeting.

"I also conveyed greetings from President Abdurrahman to Dr Mahathir...", he said. President Abdurrahman is scheduled to visit Malaysia early next month.

Also present at the meeting were Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha and Defence Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Mohamed Zahidi Zainuddin.

Asked on the security situation in Indonesia, Gen Wiranto said that peace was gradually being restored following the announcement of the cabinet line-up.

"Peace is gradually being restored and we can now concentrate on some kind of economic development truly needed by the community," he said.

Gen Wiranto said that the new cabinet was a true mix of almost all the major parties and non-governmental organisations.

"In terms of ethnicity, the new cabinet also upholds the aspirations of the various ethnic groups in Indonesia. It means there is no opposition in Indonesia," he said.

At the meeting, Dr Mahathir presented the Darjah Panglima Gagah Angkatan Tentera (Honorary) to Gen Wiranto. The federal government award was bestowed on him by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Gen Wiranto is scheduled to leave here this afternoon.

-- BERNAMA

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