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Mahathir-Arrive

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN NAGOYA FOR WORKING VISIT

By: Mohd Ghazemy Mahmud

NAGOYA, June 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today, the first leg of his working visit to Japan during which he will attend the funeral of the late Japanese prime minister Keizo Obuchi and attend a major economic conference in Tokyo.

Dr Mahathir's week-long visit to Japan is also to explore the latest technologies to boost Malaysia's industrial development, the prime minister's press secretary Zakaria Wahab told Bernama here today.

Dr Mahathir was met on arrival at the Nagoya International Airport by senior Japanese government officials and Malaysian ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohammad Noor.

Accompanying him on the visit are his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and officials of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might) and the Foreign Ministry.

Dr Mahathir will be in Nagoya, the center of Japan's machine tooling manufacturing industry, to see some of the most modern plants, including those belonging to Japanese multinationals in Tokyo.

A private sector delegation, which includes Tan Sri Ahmad Johan, president of AIROD, is also accompanying Dr Mahathir.

AIROD subsidiary SME Aerospace is scheduled to ink agreements with a major Japanese corporation in Nagoya for acquiring the latest computerised high-tech equipment to make precision aircraft parts.

Dr Mahathir will join world leaders to attend Obuchi's funeral at the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo tomorrow. Obuchi died on May 14, six weeks after suffering a stroke and falling into a coma.

The same day Dr Mahathir is scheduled to call on Yoshiro Mori who succeeded Obuchi as prime minister.

The high-powered conference he will attend in Tokyo -- Nikkei's 6th International Conference -- will map out strategies to accelerate East Asia's recovery from the devastating 1997 financial crisis.

Also attending the conference are Indonesian president Abdurrahman Wahid and Singapore senior minister Lee Kuan Yew.

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