

13 JUNE 2000

Mahathir-Departure

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR HOME AFTER WEEK-LONG TRIP TO JAPAN

By: Ghazemy Mahmud

TOKYO, June 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for home today after a successful week-long working visit to Japan.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and a six-member delegation, left the Narita International Airport near here on board a special Malaysian government jet.

The prime minister was sent off by Malaysia's ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohammad Noor and other senior Malaysian officials.

During the visit, Dr Mahathir joined world leaders to attend the funeral of the late Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi at the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo last Thursday.

Obuchi died on May 14, six weeks after suffering a stroke and falling into a coma.

Dr Mahathir also called on Yoshiro Mori who succeeded Obuchi as prime minister.

He attended Nikkei's Sixth International Conference here which was held to map out strategies to accelerate East Asia's recovery from the devastating 1997 financial crisis.

Dr Mahathir delivered a keynote address at the conference on "The Future of Asia" organised by the media group Nihon Keizei Shimbun.

The prime minister also stopped at Nagoya to see some of the most modern plants belonging to Japanese multinationals.

Dr Mahathir is expected to arrive in Kuala Lumpur at 4pm today.

-- BERNAMA

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