

08 JAN 2000

Mahathir-Leave

MAHATHIR TO BE AWAY FOR THREE WEEKS FROM NEXT WEEK

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will go on a 14-day leave and a week-long working trip abroad beginning Jan 12.

He said that during his absence, his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would take over his duties but not in the capacity as acting prime minister.

"Normally when I go abroad, the deputy will take over. He (Abdullah) will just take over to do the work...not as acting prime minister," he told reporters at his Hari Raya open house at his official residence, Sri Perdana, here.

Dr Mahathir said that during his one-week working trip, he would attend the annual World Economic Forum and the Inter-Cultural meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

On his Hari Raya message where he expressed concern over the "serious implications" to the country if the people were not grateful and were taught not to be thankful for what they have received, Dr Mahathir said the people used to be grateful "but nowadays, they are less grateful."

"Of course, they are entitled not to be grateful but in a society where nobody is grateful, there will be no stability, no peace.

"People must learn to be grateful, otherwise nobody will have peace," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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