

26 FEB 2000

Hamid-Visit

PM TO VISIT INDONESIA ON MARCH 9

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make a two-day official visit to Indonesia from March 9.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today the visit was at the invitation of Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid.

"It will be a full complement visit consisting of various officials from various ministries and the private sector," he said after opening a dialogue with literary laureates, here.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Alwi Shihab personally conveyed Abdurrahman's invitation to Dr Mahathir last Monday.

Syed Hamid said that during his visit, Dr Mahathir would meet Abdurrahman to discuss bilateral issues to foster ties between the two countries.

Syed Hamid also announced that the government would set up a liaison office in Pristina, Kosovo, to channel aid from Malaysia to the Kosovars.

The office would also monitor the developments in Kosovo, liaise between the Malaysian government and its security personnel serving there and supervise Malaysian aid programmes in Kosovo.

The office, to be manned by three staff and headed by a senior Wisma Putra official, was expected to be in operation in a few months.

Syed Hamid said the establishment of the office was one of results of his official visit to Kosovo last September.

He said the office was also set up at the request of the Kosovo leaders to facilitate the channelling of aid.

"We have extended aid totalling RM2.3 million in this one year to rehabilitate mosques, hospitals and the Pristina University Engineering Faculty and for the world food programme," he said.

-- BERNAMA

ARA RON JK