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Indon-Mahathir

TIGHT SCHEDULE AWAITS DR MAHATHIR IN INDONESIA

By: Openg Onn

JAKARTA, March 6 (Bernama) -- A tight schedule awaits Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he arrives here on Thursday for an overnight official visit to Indonesia.

Soon after arrival, the Prime Minister will hold talks with President Abdurrahman Wahid at Istana Negara. Following the talks Dr Mahathir and the President are expected to hold a joint news conference.

The Prime Minister and President Abdurrahman will later join a meeting between Malaysian and Indonesian businessmen to explore areas where Malaysia could invest in joint venture projects.

The Prime Minister's entourage will be accompanied by a 100-strong business delegation.

Later in the afternoon, Dr Mahathir will meet the Malaysian community at a hotel here.

Dr Mahathir will attend a state banquet hosted in his honour by President Abdurrahman at Istana Negara at night before returning to Kuala Lumpur on Friday morning.

This is Dr Mahathir's first visit to Indonesia since Abdurrahman or Gus Dur was elected president in October last year. The president sent his Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab to Kuala Lumpur recently to extend the invitation to the Prime Minister to make the visit.

According to Alwi, the invitation was in recognition of Dr Mahathir's leadership and to enable him to study at close hand how Malaysia could help Indonesia in its economic recovery.

-- BERNAMA

OPP AAM