

03 DEC 2001

Germany-Mahathir

MAHATHIR TO VISIT GERMANY IN MARCH 2002

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make an official visit to Germany in March next year, the German Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office Dr Ludger Volmer announced today.

During the visit Dr Mahathir will meet Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and they are expected to discuss enhancing bilateral relation and current issues, Dr Volmer said.

"We know Malaysia is one of the corner-stones in Southeast Asia and we want to intensify and perpetuate good dialogue," he told a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir was earlier scheduled to visit Berlin and Munich for three days from Sept 18 this year at Schroeder's invitation.

However, the prime minister had to cancel the trip to Germany as well as that to Britain and Russia following the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Dr Mahathir had said then that he decided to cancel his visit because of uncertainties following terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington which killed several thousand people.

Moreover, Dr Mahathir had reckoned then that all European leaders would be preoccupied with tackling the problem.

In a Sept 10 statement, Wisma Putra said Dr Mahathir's trip to Germany was, among other things, to showcase Malaysia's attraction for investors and see first hand the latest technology used in biotechnology, information technology and the transport industry.

In the original itinerary for the cancelled visit, Dr Mahathir was also supposed to open the chancery building of the Malaysian Embassy in Berlin.

-- BERNAMA

AT AHH RYN