

20 NOV 2001

Ambassador(Pix)

MALAYSIA TO OPEN EMBASSY IN IRELAND

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will open an embassy in the Republic of Ireland soon with the appointment of Datuk Ali Abdullah as the first ambassador.

Ali, previously the High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, was among 10 Malaysian ambassadors and high commissioners who called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here today.

Ali told reporters later that it was a challenging assignment for him as it would be a new embassy.

"The Irish government is looking forward to the opening of our embassy there. They have set up their embassy here for some time already and the opening of our embassy reflects the importance we attach to bilateral ties," he said.

Ali, who is scheduled to leave for Ireland next week, said he would not have any problems adjusting to the new environment.

Asked on the meeting, Ambassador-designate to Iran Mazlan Muhammad said Dr Mahathir advised them to help preserve the good ties between Malaysia and the countries they are posted to.

"The discussions touched on how we should conduct ourselves overseas and he also offered advice on several matters concerning the countries we are going to," he said.

He said the prime minister also advised them to safeguard the country's good image.

"The prime minister feels that now we will get a lot of help from outside and our image has been getting better," he said.

The others at the meeting are High Commissioner-designate to Canada Datuk Dennis Joachim Ignatius, Datuk Kamaruddin Mustafa (Ambassador to Russia), Datuk Syed Norulzaman Syed Kamarulzaman (Thailand), Mohd Arshad Manzoor Hussain (Australia), Tai Kat Meng (Brazil), Mohd Taufik Mohd Noor (Philippines), Ashaary Sani (Bangladesh) and Md Daud Md Yusof (Laos).

-- BERNAMA

NM AHH YBY