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SABAH ISSUE NOT IN AGENDA, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LUMUT, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the issue of the Philippines' claim on Sabah is a non-issue to Malaysia and will not be discussed at his meeting with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo tomorrow.

"We have not included it in the agenda. It's not an issue," the prime said when asked whether the claim would be discussed during Arroyo's visit to Malaysia starting tomorrow.

He was asked to comment on Arroyo's statement in an interview with a TV3 reporter in Manila that the Sabah issue would be raised during the visit.

Speaking at a news conference at the end of his visit to the Royal Malaysian Navy base here, Dr Mahathir said that among the matters to be discussed was bilateral relations between the two countries.

"This includes our role in helping to resolve the problems in the southern Philippines," he said.

Trade and several other matters in which the Philippines had shown an interest would also be discussed, he said.

-- BERNAMA

AR KAY AT ZS JK