

29 MAY 2001

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT MEETS DR MAHATHIR IN PUTRAJAYA

PUTRAJAYA, May 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held an hour-long discussion with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at the Prime Minister's office, here, today.

Chavez was met by the prime minister upon arrival at 12.15pm for their meeting which focused on enhancing ties between Kuala Lumpur and Caracas.

This is the Venezuelan leader's second visit to Malaysia, the first being in October 1999.

The 30-member presidential entourage includes Foreign Minister Col Luis Alfonso Davila, Science and Technology Minister Dr Carlos Genatios and Planning and Development Minister Dr Jorge Giordani and a group of businessmen.

After the meeting, Chavez and his delegation proceeded to the Prime Minister's official residence, Seri Perdana, for lunch hosted by Dr Mahathir.

The president is scheduled to end his two-day visit to Malaysia this evening when he leaves for Jakarta to attend the Group of 15 Summit, which will also be attended by Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA  
NZ MAM JK