

PM made 16 trips abroad, House told

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has made 16 overseas trips so far this year, said Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas.

Replying to Datuk Dr Hassan Mohamed Ali (PAS - Parit Buntar), he said the trips for this year cost RM8.5mil.

He said the purpose of the trips were to foster bilateral ties, to discuss international issues and to increase foreign investment.

Some of the trips, he added, resulted from invitations by other countries as the world regarded Dr Mahathir as the leader of an Islamic country.

"Local entrepreneurs are enjoying benefits as many business agreements have been signed during the trips.

"The returns from these trips are much more than the money spent on them," he said.

Dr Mahathir made 16 overseas trips in 2000 at a cost of RM2.55mil and 14 trips last year costing RM1.8mil.