

20 JUN 2002

Parliament-Visits

PM'S VISITS BROUGHT IMMENSE BENEFITS TO NATION, PARLIAMENT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visits abroad have brought immense benefits to the country, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

"The money spent for the visits will bring greater returns. Many business agreements were signed which will profit both sides," said Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas.

He was responding to a supplementary question by Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (BN-Batang Lupar) as to whether Dr Mahathir's visits benefited only the commercial sector.

Douglas said that besides benefiting the commercial sector, the visits also served to enhance bilateral ties, gain support for Malaysia's stand on international issues and introduce Malaysia to other countries.

Earlier, replying to the original question by Datuk Dr Hassan Mohamed Ali (PAS-Parit Buntar) on the number of foreign visits made by Dr Mahathir and the cost involved, Douglas said the Prime Minister made 16 visits in 2000 and the total expenses was RM2,549,343.

Last year, he made 14 visits (RM1,824,903) while this year, he made 16 visits as of June 13 (RM8,548,316)

To another question from Dr Hassan on whether memorandums of understanding signed during such visits had all been implemented, Douglas said the government had set up a committee to monitor the MoUs.

"The government too is concerned as to whether the MoUs were signed merely for the sake of publicity or done with the intention of implementing them," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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