

11 DEC 2002

PM LEAVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN

SEPANG, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for a two-day visit to Japan tonight in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Malaysia's "Look East Policy".

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was seen off at the KL International Airport here by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, Cabinet ministers and Barisan Nasional supporters.

The Malaysia Airlines aircraft carrying Dr Mahathir and his entourage departed at about 11.35pm.

Apart from having talks with his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi, Dr Mahathir will also have an audience with Emperor Akihito and meet Japanese businessmen and corporate leaders.

Among the other highlights of the visit is the prime minister's keynote address at a seminar to commemorate the introduction of the Look East Policy in the early 80's, which is organised by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nihon Keizai Shinbun.

Dr Mahathir will also deliver a keynote address at a symposium entitled "Islam: Fostering Peace and Dialogue in an Interdependent World" at the United Nations University.

-- BERNAMA

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