

30 JUL 2002

LID-Arrive

BOTSWANA MINISTER ARRIVES IN LANGKAWI FOR LID 2002

LANGKAWI, July 30 (Bernama) -- Botswana Finance and Development Planning Minister Baledzi Gaolathe arrived here today to attend the Langkawi International Dialogue 2002 (LID 2002).

The minister is the first among the heads of state and government to arrive here for the four-day dialogue. Gaolathe and his delegation arrived at the Langkawi International Airport at 9.28am.

About 380 participants from 56 countries will attend the biennial dialogue initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1995.

Among the heads of state and government scheduled to arrive tomorrow are Prime Minister of Lesotho, Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, Mauritius Prime Minister, Aneerood Jugnauth, Namibian President, Dr Sam Nujoma, Vice-President of Seychelles, James Alix Michel, and Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Sudanese President Omar Hasssan Ahmad Al-Bashir and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe are expected to arrive on Thursday.

LID 2002, forms part of Global 2002, which also incorporates the South African International Dialogue (SAID) and the East African International Dialogue (EAID).

The dialogue, which started in 1995, had received serious attention from developing countries as it brought governments and the private sector together to exchange views, ideas and find the best approaches to develop the countries.

LID 2002 expected to focus on terrorism, global economy and social issues will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Pelangi Beach Resort in Pantai Chenang on Thursday.

-- BERNAMA

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