

16 APR 2002  
Mahathir-Arrival  
DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN MOROCCO

By: Mohd Arshi Mohd Daud and Khairdzir Yunus

RABAT, April 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived in Morocco Monday evening, marking the start of his four-day visit to this north African state.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a mission to bolster economic and trade ties, is leading a 185-member delegation comprising cabinet ministers, government officials and businessmen on a week-long tour of countries including Libya and Bahrain.

The Prime Minister arrived on a specially chartered Malaysia Airlines aircraft, flight MH4802, which landed at 7:05pm (3.05am Malaysian time) at Sale Airport in Rabat, the capital of Morocco.

He was received on arrival by Moroccan Prime Minister Abdurrahmane Youssoufi.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was then accorded an official welcoming ceremony where he inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by Morocco's armed forces at the airport tarmac.

The Prime Minister, Dr Siti Hasmah, the official delegation and the media will spend two nights in Rabat.

After the welcoming ceremony, the business delegation continued with their journey on board the chartered aircraft to Casablanca where they will be having their individual business meetings.

Dr Mahathir and the official delegation will proceed to Casablanca to meet the Moroccan business community on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Dr Mahathir will be meeting Abdurrahmane after a wreath-laying ceremony at the Mohammed V Mausoleum.

The Prime Minister will also call on King Mohammed VI.

He is also scheduled to witness the signing of a bilateral pact and memorandum of understanding, attend an informal meeting with Malaysian students and hold a dialogue with Morocco's Islamic intellectuals and parliamentarians.

In the evening, the Prime Minister will attend a dinner hosted by his Moroccan counterpart.

Dr Mahathir's last two days in Morocco will be spent in Casablanca where he will have a dialogue with the Moroccan business community and visit Somaca, Morocco's national car assembly plant.

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir and his delegation will depart for Libya for the second leg of his three-country tour.

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