

07 AUG 2002

Mahathir-Arrive

DR M BEGINS TWO-DAY VISIT TO BALI

By: Mohd Kamel Othman

DENPASAR (BALI), Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here this afternoon for a two-day working visit, during which he will meet President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Dr Mahathir was received on arrival at the Ngurah Rai International Airport at about 4pm by Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr N. Hassan Wirajuda.

Also at the airport were four Malaysian ministers -- Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (Foreign), Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik (Primary Industries), Datuk Amar Leo Moggie (Energy, Communications and Multimedia) and Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil (Women and Family Development).

A group of Malaysian students in Bali was also there to greet the prime minister.

Soon after arrival, Dr Mahathir was taken to Istana Tampaksiring, about 90 minutes' drive from the airport.

At Istana Tampaksiring, Dr Mahathir was welcomed by Megawati and her husband Taufiq Kiemas at Wisma Merdeka before they held a short meeting.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir will attend a dinner at Wisma Negara.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will have a closed-door meeting with Megawati. After that, the two leaders will lead their delegations at a bilateral meeting.

The prime minister and Megawati will also witness the signing of memorandums of understanding on women and family development, the repatriation of Indonesian workers from Malaysia and cooperation on immigration matters.

The two leaders will also witness the launch of the Malaysia-Indonesia Joint Business Council, Malaysia-Indonesia Friendship Board (PERMAI) and Indonesia-Malaysia Friendship Board (PRIMA).

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir and Megawati will launch the project for supply of natural gas from Pulau Natuna to Pulau Duyong, Terengganu. The gas will be channelled through a 96km-long pipeline.

The prime minister is scheduled to return to Kuala Lumpur at 4.15pm.

-- BERNAMA

MKO AFY YBY