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LID-Mahathir (LID)

DR M TO ATTEND LID AFTER LEAVING OFFICE BUT AS ORDINARY MEMBER

LANGKAWI, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will continue to participate at the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) after his retirement in October next year.

"I will attend, I will participate as an ordinary member," he said when met by reporters on the sidelines of the Global 2002 LID, here.

He was asked to comment on calls by heads of state and government attending the dialogue that he should continue his good work even after his retirement.

Dr Mahathir announced his resignation from all government and party posts at the Umno General Assembly on June 22 with immediate effect but was persuaded to stay on by the party's supreme council members until October next year when Malaysia hosts the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit.

Dr Mahathir had named his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor.

Asked if the LID would continue its biennial dialogue, he said: "LID will carry on I hope, it depends on the new prime minister."

On another matter, Dr Mahathir declined to reveal the country which he said "hijacked" a major investment away from Malaysia by offering US\$200 million (RM760 million) and other perks to the prospective investor.

In his speech when opening the Global 2002 LID here last night, Dr Mahathir said economic terrorism took various forms and had said that a rich country made the offer in its attempt to woo the investor away from Malaysia.

"I did not give the identity (of the country which committed economic terrorism)," he said.

Asked if the nation that did the dastardly act was a neighbouring country, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir received courtesy calls from Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Vice-President of Seychelles James Alix Michel and Mongolian Foreign Minister Luvsan Erdenechuluun.

-- BERNAMA

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