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BUDGET-DIALOGUES

SPECIAL 2003 BUDGET DIALOGUE FOR MENTERIS BESAR, CHIEF MINISTERS

PUTRAJAYA, May 30 (Bernama) -- The Finance Ministry will hold a special dialogue session for Menteris Besar, Chief Ministers and government backbenchers to obtain inputs for the formulation of policies and strategies in the 2003 Budget," said Prime Minister-cum-Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

All inputs would be evaluated and, if found to be suitable, would be used as the basis for formulating strategies in the 2003 Budget to be tabled in September, he said at a pre-Budget dialogue session here.

Usually the pre-Budget dialogues would cover three sessions with the relevant ministries, economic sectors, industry associations and social organisations to discuss macro-economic development and social issues.

But a fourth session will be held this year with Menteris Besar, Chief Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Deputy President of the Malay Chambers of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM), Datuk Syed Amin AlJeffri, hoped that the government would give attention to incentives to develop the services industry.

He said this was in view of the fact that the services industry would play a major role in the future in the nation's economy. -- BERNAMA

MAS SHY