

07 AUG 2002

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR INDONESIA FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

PETALING JAYA, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left this afternoon for a two-day working visit to Bali, where he will hold high-level talks with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

He is expected to discuss issues like the hiring of Indonesian workers, repatriation of illegal workers, investment opportunities as well as border disputes.

Dr Mahathir, who left on an executive jet at 1pm, was sent off at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Subang, here, by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several other Cabinet ministers.

The visit is part of an annual dialogue and consultation between leaders of the two neighbouring countries.

Malaysia and Indonesia are expected to sign agreements on various issues, including cooperation on immigration matters, repatriation of illegal Indonesian immigrants and the formation of the Indonesia-Malaysia Business Council.

Both leaders are also scheduled to jointly officiate at a ceremony on the supply of gas by Indonesia to Malaysia. The project is a joint venture between Petronas of Malaysia and Pertamina of Indonesia.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to return home tomorrow evening.

-- BERNAMA

SHO MR SHY JK