

14 AUG 2002

MAHATHIR BIDS FAREWELL TO TIMOR LESTE PREMIER

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad bade farewell to the visiting Prime Minister of the newly-independent nation of Timor Leste, Dr Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri, today.

Dr Alkatiri arrived here on Sunday at the head of a 27-member high-level delegation for a four-day official visit to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir spent about 30 minutes with Dr Alkatiri at the Regency Hotel, here.

During the visit, Dr Alkatiri held talks with Dr Mahathir on bilateral relations as well as a delegation meeting with the Malaysian side.

Timor Leste is seeking Malaysia's help in its social economic development as Malaysia is regarded as the best model for development.

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad had said that Malaysia was willing to assist Timor Leste in education, industrial development, agriculture as well as joint ventures in oil and gas industries through Petronas, beside helping through investment in the downstream and export-oriented sectors.

-- BERNAMA

AT AKT JK