

2 JUL 2002
Mahathir-Thailand
MAHATHIR TO MAKE TWO-DAY VISIT TO THAILAND

PUTRAJAYA, July 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will leave for Thailand on Friday on a two-day official visit.

He will be accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Agriculture Minister Datuk Mohd Effendi Norwawi.

Also in the delegation will be armed forces chief Tan Sri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai, Petronas president and chief executive Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican, and Economic Planning Unit director-general Datuk Iskandar Dzakurnain Badarudin.

Dr Mahathir, who is scheduled to return home tomorrow after a week-long holiday in Europe, would begin his Thai visit at Chiangmai, said his press secretary Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab.

He would be welcomed by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at that northern city, Zakaria told a media briefing here today.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to visit a ceramic plant, a model of Thailand's small and medium scale industry, and two factories that represent the country's "one tambon (village) one product" policy.

In the evening, Shinawatra is expected to host a private dinner for Dr Mahathir at Chiangmai University.

Dr Mahathir will proceed to Bangkok on Saturday where he is scheduled to give a luncheon talk to Malaysian and Thai businessmen operating in the capital city.

This will be followed by a bilateral meeting, and later an official dinner hosted by Shinawatra at Government House.

Dr Mahathir is expected to return home on Sunday morning.

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