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Dr M arrives in Dili for visit of Timor Leste

DILI (Timor Leste): Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here yesterday on a two-day official visit to Timor Leste.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, was greeted on arrival by his counterpart Mari Alkatiri.

Immediately after arriving, Dr Mahathir met some 200 Malaysians living and working in the country.

During his visit, the Prime Minister is scheduled to call on President Xanana Gusmao and hold talks with Alkatiri.

He will also address the Timor Leste parliament and deliver a keynote address at a dialogue with the business community.

Timor Leste which gained independence last year after breaking away from Indonesia, is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Gusmao recently said that of all the countries in Asia, Timor Leste found the "Malaysian model" of national development and natural resource management most suitable for adaptation.

After Timor Leste, Dr Mahathir will make a two-day visit to Papua New Guinea from Friday.