

26 AUG 2003

Mahathir-Palestine

DR MAHATHIR MEETS PALESTINIAN NGO REPRESENTATIVES

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met a three-member delegation from the Palestinian Foundation for Human Perseverance (Fata), a Gaza-based non-governmental organisation, at his office here today.

Dr Mahathir had an hour-long discussion with the delegation, headed by Fata president Dr Mohamed El-Tawil.

Present at the meeting was Malaysia Medical Relief Society (Mercy Malaysia) president Datuk Dr Jemilah Mahmud who arranged the meeting following her trip to Palestine to observe the situation there last month.

She told reporters after the meeting that the Fata representatives were appealing for assistance especially in terms of technical expertise and equipment in its project to rehabilitate some 7,000 disabled Palestinians especially children who were injured during the Intifada and attacks by Israeli soldiers.

Fata was constructing a rehabilitation centre, scheduled for completion early next year in Gaza, she said.

Dr Jemilah said that Mercy proposed to launch a Palestine People's Fund to provide medicines, equipment and books for the centre.

"The PM has stated his support for such efforts," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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