

18 JAN 2003

Mahathir-Visit

DR MAHATHIR TO VISIT LEBANON AND EGYPT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will have high-level talks with Lebanese and Egyptian leaders during his visit to the two countries from Jan 20 to 23.

The prime minister will be accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and a delegation comprising cabinet ministers, chief ministers, senior government officials and muftis.

A Wisma Putra statement here says that during his visit to Lebanon on Jan 20-21, the prime minister will call on his Lebanese counterpart, Rafic Hariri, in Beirut to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Both prime ministers are expected to witness the signing of documents for cooperation in various fields after their meeting.

Dr Mahathir will address Lebanese parliamentarians, state dignitaries and corporate leaders at a luncheon hosted by Hariri. Prominent members of the Malaysian private sector will also be present.

He will also call on President Emile Lahoud and attend an official dinner hosted by the president in his honour besides visiting Beirut and the city's vicinity to look at the progress of the reconstruction process.

In the Egyptian capital of Cairo, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to call on President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Atef Muhammad Muhammad Ebeid.

The leaders are expected to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of interest to both Kuala Lumpur and Cairo as well as dwell on global challenges.

Their talks will also touch on Malaysia's hosting of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit on Feb 20-25 and the Organisation of Islamic Conference Summit on Oct 16-18, both to be held in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir will also meet the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Dr Mohamed Sayed Tantawi, and deliver a public lecture to international students, scholars and academia at the Al-Azhar University during his visit to Egypt on Jan 21-23.

The title of his lecture is "Muslim Unity in the Face of Challenges and Threats".

-- BERNAMA

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