

25 JUL 2003

Mahathir-Thaksin

MAHATHIR AND THAKSIN TO HOLD ANNUAL CONSULTATION IN LANGKAWI SUNDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Thai counterpart, Thaksin Shinawatra, will hold their annual consultation during the latter's working visit to Langkawi on Sunday, Wisma Putra said today.

The annual consultation between Thaksin and Dr Mahathir will be the fourth since the former assumed office in 1999, it said in a statement issued here today.

"The annual consultation has proven to be an invaluable forum towards fostering closer relations and cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand as it provides both leaders with the opportunity to discuss and review bilateral issues," it said.

During the visit, the two leaders are expected to deliver their keynote address at the Malaysia-Thailand Technology Business Partnership Dialogue organised by Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might).

A four-eye meeting will be held in the afternoon, followed by a delegation meeting led by both prime ministers.

Malaysia and Thailand will be signing the 'Joint Declaration of the Malaysia-Thailand Dialogue Cooperation Framework', and two MoUs, on 'Cooperation on Customs Matters', and 'Cooperation on Stock Exchange', which will be witnessed by the two premiers.

During the meeting, the two leaders are expected to discuss the ongoing cooperation between the two countries along the border areas, border demarcation issue, trade and investment, the Trans Malaysia-Thailand Pipe Line Project in Southern Thailand, cooperation in information, and also various regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Thaksin is scheduled to leave for Bangkok on Monday morning.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is scheduled to close the Malaysia-Thailand Technology and Business Partnership Dialogue at noon on Monday.

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